

Other journals in brief

A selection of abstracts of clinically relevant papers from other journals.

The abstracts on this page have been chosen and edited by Dr Trevor Watts.

PREVENTIVE DENTISTRY

Randomized controlled trial of a one-minute intervention changing oral self-care behavior

Sniehotta FF, Soares VE *et al.* *J Dent Res* 2007; **86**: 641-645

The intervention had an effect 2 months later.

Psychological research suggests that forming an action plan may help individuals to carry out their intentions. In this study, students at a Scottish university were given a lecture on oral self-care, including the relevance of flossing and a free sample packet of dental floss. All were subsequently emailed to invite them to complete a questionnaire, and in a randomly generated experimental subgroup, an intervention was added recommending an action plan of writing when and where the participant would floss for the next 2 weeks.

In the experimental group of 114 subjects, 90 completed a questionnaire to 2 weeks later, and 64 to 2 months; respective control figures were 125, 105 and 70. Self-reported mean weekly flossing frequency at 2 weeks and at 2 months was 5.2 and 2.7 in the experimental group, and 4.2 and 1.9 in the control group ($P < 0.05$ in both cases). The authors comment that the action plan method has similar effects in other areas of preventive medicine.

DOI: 10.1038/bdj.2008.51

FIXED AND REMOVABLE PROSTHODONTICS

Time to survival for the restoration of the shortened lower dental arch

Thomason JM, Moynihan PJ *et al.* *J Dent Res* 2007; **86**: 646-650

In relatively small groups, survival was similar for fixed and removable prostheses.

Removable partial dentures (RPDs) in the lower arch are frequently not used. There are also possible associated problems of root caries. In this study, 60 patients were allocated randomly to RPDs or resin-bonded cantilever bridges (FPDs), and followed for 5 yrs, when respective group numbers were 21 and 24.

At the 175 follow-up appointments made for patients of each group, no treatment was required on 136 occasions in the FPD group, and on 97 occasions in the RPD group. In the FPD group, de-bonding occurred on 32 occasions, and in the RPD group, there were 60 occasions when adjustment was needed. Failure, defined by the patient, affected 11 FPDs and 15 RPDs. The authors consider that, on balance, FPDs are favoured by their results.

DOI: 10.1038/bdj.2008.53

REMOVABLE PROSTHODONTICS

The influence of personality on patients' satisfaction with existing and new complete dentures

Fenlon MR, Sherriff M *et al.* *J Dent* 2007; **35**: 744-748

Neurotic patients were less satisfied, but there was no relationship between other personality traits and denture use.

There are conflicting data on the relationship of personality and denture satisfaction. In this study, 308 patients about to receive replacement complete dentures were examined and asked to complete the short Eysenck questionnaire. Satisfaction with the new dentures was recorded after the post-insertion visit, 3 months later, and 2 yrs later; 217 patients completed the study.

Neither extroversion nor psychosis responses of the questionnaire were correlated with any aspects of denture satisfaction, but there was a negative relationship of satisfaction and neurosis scores. The authors comment that patients with high neurosis scores are likely to be anxious, worrying, depressed and likely to overreact, and therefore more likely to complain.

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PREVENTIVE DENTISTRY

Comparative efficacy of stabilized stannous fluoride/sodium hexametaphosphate dentifrice and sodium fluoride/triclosan/copolymer dentifrice for the prevention of periodontitis in xerostomic patients: a 2-year randomized clinical trial

Papas A, He T *et al.* *J Periodontol* 2007; **78**: 1505-1314

These toothpastes appeared to have similar effects.

Triclosan in a copolymer dentifrice formulation has been shown to be helpful in slowing periodontitis progression. Fluoride has been shown to reduce root caries, and has some antimicrobial effects. This study compared fluoride and fluoride/triclosan dentifrices in a double-masked RCT with 440 patients with medication-related xerostomia, of whom 392 completed 4 evaluable visits.

Over an initial 1-yr run-in phase, subjects lost a mean of 1.3 mm clinical attachment, and during the subsequent 2 yrs they regained about 0.8 mm. During the 2 years about 1/4 of root caries sites appeared to remineralise. There were no significant differences between groups in periodontal or caries data.

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