

Female dental professionals must be supported through menopause



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Female dentists and dental care professionals (DCPs) should be well supported through the menopause and perimenopause to ensure we retain passionate and skilled clinicians in the workforce for as long as possible, according to Dental Protection.

Dental Protection said around 93% of DCPs and 52% of dentists are female, and many could at some stage be impacted by menopause symptoms such as anxiety,

depression, poor concentration, brain fog, dizziness and insomnia while doing their best to care for patients in challenging environments.

It said mental wellbeing support, awareness from practice owners and managers as well as workplace adjustments may help female dental professionals continue to perform at their best, and stay in the workforce for longer.

Yvonne Shaw, Deputy Director at

Dental Protection, said: ‘The menopause and the associated symptoms can vary widely; however, we need to ensure female colleagues aren’t suffering in silence during this phase of their lives. Brain fog, forgetfulness, poor concentration and insomnia can make any job difficult, but particularly so in a challenging environment like dentistry.

‘All female dental colleagues suffering with symptoms should feel comfortable to discuss workplace adjustments and seek mental wellbeing support. Providing a working environment that is open and supportive helps to ensure those affected do not feel isolated. Having a menopause workplace policy can ensure wider understanding and provide reassurance that support will be available if needed. Managers and practice owners should consider training on the menopause and how the symptoms can impact on the wellbeing of some individuals and the wider team.

‘If we do not destigmatise menopause, we may lose many skilled and highly valued dental professionals during a time when the profession can ill-afford it. A supportive culture will alleviate additional stress, enable individuals to continue to perform at their best for patients, and thrive in their careers for longer.’

Correction to 2 in 5 dentists who graduated overseas faced FtP hearing

The original article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41404-022-1763-2>

Journal’s correction note:

News BDJ In Practice 2022; 35: 10.

When this news story was originally published, the final two words of the headline were omitted. The correct headline is: 2 in 5 dentists who graduated overseas faced FtP hearing without representation.

The journal apologises for any inconvenience caused.

MPs back reform, but government yet to wake up

The British Dental Association has greeted the show of unity from MPs on fixing the broken NHS dental service but lamented the government’s failure to commit to meaningful reform.

Members backed a cross-party motion calling on government to set out an action plan to address the access and workforce crises in NHS dentistry, and to report back to the House on progress in three months.

MPs joined the BDA’s call for a decisive break from the failed contract, underpinned by sustainable investment. The NHS contract, which puts government targets ahead of patient care and caps funding to barely half the population, was recently dubbed

by Parliament’s Health and Social Care Committee as ‘not fit for purpose’. In his former role as chair of the committee, Jeremy Hunt had been an advocate of reform in dentistry and a fully funded workforce plan for the NHS.

Shawn Charlwood, Chair of the British Dental Association’s General Dental Practice Committee said: ‘MPs on both sides of the House have recognised the urgency here, but the government has yet to wake up.

‘Quick fixes and tinkering at the margins won’t save NHS dentistry. Our patients need to see fair funding and real reform. Any further cuts will condemn this service to oblivion.’