consequences of traditional tobacco or snus use. They are available in a wide variety of flavours and packaged in fashionable tins with coloured logos which have great visual appeal.^{1,2}

As a hospital clinician, I had no prior knowledge of these products despite distributing smoking cessation advice on a daily basis. With such a paucity of information available regarding these products and their associated potential harmful consequences, how is a layperson supposed to make an informed decision regarding their use?

I am deeply concerned that these pouches provide a gateway to traditional tobacco smoking via nicotine addiction. Even if they may offer a harm-reduction means for established tobacco users to get their 'nicotine hit', we must not take tobacco companies at their word; rigorous independent research is imperative. We have seen an uptake of new-generation smokers with vaping and smokeless tobacco and now know of the established detrimental health effects.⁵ We must act urgently and in unison, lest we repeat our mistakes.

A. Keogh, London, UK

References

1. Robichaud M O, Seidenberg A B, Byron M J. Tobacco companies introduce 'tobacco-free' nicotine pouches. *Tob Control* 2020; **29**: e145–e146. DOI: 10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2019-055321.
2. Rossel S. Out of the bag. *Tobacco Reporter* 1 September 2020. Available at: <https://tobaccoreporter.com/2020/09/01/out-of-the-bag/> (accessed January 2021).
3. Grando S A. Connections of nicotine to cancer. *Nat Rev Cancer* 2014; **14**: 419–429.
4. Tebbutt J, Khan Z, Ariyaratnam R. A case report of oral nicotine-associated keratosis and a review of oral mucosal changes in tobacco and similar products. *Br Dent J* 2020; **228**: 757–760.

5. Public Health England. Research and analysis: e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products: evidence review. Last updated 2 March 2018. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/e-cigarettes-and-heated-tobacco-products-evidence-review> (accessed January 2021).

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41415-021-2622-y>

Paediatric dentistry

Having to Lego of a tooth

Sir, we wanted to discuss the presentation of a three-year-old patient's take on the Hall crown technique. Hall crowns have been described as a revolutionary treatment choice in paediatric dentistry and have been recommended as the gold standard in managing carious lesions covering two or more surfaces.¹

The patient presented to our accident and emergency (A&E) department with what initially appeared from afar to be an extruded upper right central incisor (51). Closer examination revealed a bulbous, yellow, foreign object, with a gleaming smiling face on the surface. The object was identified as a Lego head. The patient had firmly positioned the toy over the crown of his tooth so that it was flush to the gingival margin. The object was able to spin around with ease upon the tooth. This caused a functional, occlusal and aesthetic concern, but more importantly, a possible airway risk.

Similar cases have been reported on older children.^{2,3,4} However, on this young boy, while attempts were made to remove the foreign object, due to his age, anxiety and compliance, removal under local anaesthetic was not possible. In addition, he did not want

to part from his customised crown. It was therefore decided to remove the toy under general anaesthetic. While custom Lego tools have been reported to be useful in removing these offending pieces, we opted for our dependable healing forceps.⁵

Fig. 1 The child patient in theatre about to have the Lego head removed from his tooth

The Lego head was successfully removed in theatre (Fig. 1), along with the tooth, which turned out to be carious. Thankfully, the patient was reunited with his toy, although we stressed the importance of placing Lego heads onto Lego bodies, not teeth. We are pleased to report that the patient left our department with a smile matching the one seen on his figurine.

A. Shathur, A. Patel, A. Boscarino, Liverpool, UK

References

1. Roberts A, McKay A, Albadri S. The use of Hall technique preformed metal crowns by specialist paediatric dentists in the UK. *Br Dent J* 2018; **224**: 48–52.
2. Tajmehri N, Lawson J, Yesudian G. Let it go – Lego! *Br Dent J* 2020; **229**: 212.
3. Baker D C, Flaherty S D. Lego of that. *Br Dent J* 2008; **204**: 657.
4. Hampton R, Wong J, Singh M. Lego of that. *Br Dent J* 2012; **212**: 105.
5. Lovel S. Lego leverage. *Br Dent J* 2020; **229**: 571.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41415-021-2623-x>

BDA
British Dental Association

Seminar Series

Whitening and resin infiltration

How to remove white spots from teeth using icon resin infiltration

Dr Linda Greenwall

Monday 15 March 2021 19.00 – 21.00 | Wednesday 17 March 2021 19.00 – 21.00

Price: BDA members: £250 | Non-members: £350 | DCPs: £175

Cost – includes all materials needed, a dental model and an icon resin kit.

To book or find out more

bda.org/seminars

2 HOURS CPD

DEVELOPMENT
OUTCOME

(A) (B) (C) (D)

Sponsored by: