which echoes the seeking of advanced care.¹ The growing economy allows people to spend more on their oral healthcare needs and not limit themselves in the choice for better care. An upsurge in the country's per capita income and heightened awareness regarding oral health and aesthetics has resulted in the average population seeking superior modes for oral rehabilitation. Dentistry and related industries warrant studies to understand better the general population's approach and desires for more aesthetic and advanced outcomes and be prepared to meet new challenges.

N. Kurian, V. S. Varghese, N. Gandhi, K. G. Varghese, A. A. Thomas, Ludhiana, India

Reference

1. The World Bank. GDP per capita (current US\$) - India. Available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?end=2019&locations=IN&start=2005> (accessed March 2021).
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Paediatric dentistry Odontopaste alternatives?

Sir, I write with reference to the letter by H. Al-Saffar and D. Dadnam regarding the use of Odontopaste as an alternative to Ledermix in children.¹

Both medicaments have been shown to provide symptomatic relief in the management of pulpal symptoms, eg irreversible pulpitis and hyperaemic pulp, due to their analgesic and antimicrobial properties. It is also not a relatively technique sensitive (or moisture sensitive) procedure, therefore is easy to place in a cavity after simple removal of caries with an excavator or slow hand piece and simple isolation with cotton wool rolls. This may be beneficial in children who suffer from severe dental anxiety and are in acute pain.

I note, however, and agree with the authors, that there should be caution undertaken with the use of Ledermix due to it containing

tetracycline as an antibiotic component, which can cause developmental defects in a child especially with the developing dentition. Perhaps most notably is the staining that forms on the dentition as the teeth are being formed. Furthermore, licensing for this product contraindicates its use for children under 12 years of age. As a result, Odontopaste is advocated as the far safer alternative. However, a review of dental retailers has shown that the product has been discontinued in the last year in the UK. Thus it seems that Ledermix is the only available intracanal medicament currently on the market. Are there any other available alternatives that could be used in place of this?

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Reference

1. Al-Saffar, H., Dadnam, D. Ledermix in children. *Br Dent J* 2021; **230**: 273.
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CASE REPORT

Dental radiography

Holistic radiographic interpretation

Sir, a nine-year-old child was referred to the Birmingham Dental Hospital Children's Department regarding poor prognosis first permanent molars. Interestingly, the orthopantomogram (OPG) included with the referral resembled the appearance of supplemental teeth in the upper and lower left quadrants

(Fig. 1). The referral did not reference the radiographic findings. Clinically, the patient presented in the mixed dentition with no supplemental teeth evident. The OPT was in fact of the correct patient, though did not correlate with the intraoral findings seen clinically. A radiograph report was requested to identify the cause of the discrepancy which highlighted a discontinuity in the inferior cortex of the mandible in the lower left premolar

region, indicating the patient had moved during the exposure resulting in a duplicate image.

Comparing left and right sides of the image is valuable in detecting asymmetries, as structures appearing bilaterally are normally anatomical. Tracing the periphery of the mandible/maxilla and examining other hard tissue structures and air spaces is advisable before assessing the teeth to avoid 'tunnel vision'. Patient positioning is the most common error resulting in unequal horizontal and vertical magnification, the appearance of overlapping teeth and loss of image sharpness.¹ Similarly, failure to place the dorsum of the tongue against the hard palate results in an air shadow (palatoglossal air space) superimposed over the maxillary teeth, thereby obscuring the presence of periapical pathology.

In this instance, the clarity of the duplicate image may have led to incorrect diagnoses. This highlights the importance of employing a holistic approach to radiographic interpretation, ensuring patient identity has been confirmed and that the image has

Fig. 1 The orthopantomogram included with the referral resembled the appearance of supplemental teeth in the upper and lower left quadrants