

Over half of dental professionals say mental wellbeing is worse now than during the COVID pandemic

More than half of dental professionals in the UK (57%) who took part in a survey say their mental health is worse now than it was during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the Dental Protection survey of over 1,300 dental professionals in the UK, one in two (50%) are also pessimistic about the future and more than half (56%) are considering their future in the dental profession due to mental wellbeing concerns.

Dr Yvonne Shaw, Deputy Dental Director at Dental Protection said: 'The pandemic created an exceptionally tough time for dentistry, and we know that many practices are still grappling with the aftermath. It

is hugely concerning that so many dental professionals who endured the challenges of the pandemic feel that their mental wellbeing is worse off today.

'We all have a part to play in supporting the dental team and looking to restore optimism and purpose in the profession. Many practices offered wellbeing support to dental teams during the pandemic. Wherever possible, this should continue.'

Dental professionals who participated in the survey commented anonymously:

'I am considering retirement a little earlier than I would have done a few years ago. It is the pressure of conforming to so many ever-changing rules whilst trying

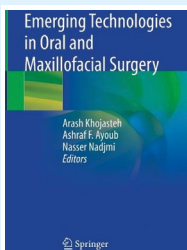
to give the patients the best and most appropriate care. The pandemic was hard but the guidance when it came was clear.'

'I found the first part of the pandemic the most stressful time when I could only give telephone advice. But now, there are too many patients and not enough time, so it's close.'

'During the pandemic there was a sense of everyone striving towards a common goal. Now it's back to watching our backs and defensive dentistry.'

'Patients' expectations are very high since the pandemic. Dentists are leaving the profession and patients do not appear grateful when they are seen.'

BOOK REVIEW



EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IN ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

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The first edition of *Emerging technologies in oral and maxillofacial surgery* provides a detailed guide for surgeons and professionals in related fields. It covers the integration of advanced technologies such as 3D printing, virtual reality, augmented reality, artificial intelligence, and machine learning in oral and maxillofacial surgery practices. The book is expertly crafted, with organised chapters and high-quality flowcharts and figures throughout.

Divided into 18 chapters, this book provides a comprehensive journey from theoretical foundations to the practical application of advanced technologies in dentistry. In the initial chapter, the transformative impact of advanced technologies, including CAD/CAM, robotic surgeries, and regenerative dentistry applications, is discussed. The following chapter delves into the use of CBCT and MRI for computer-assisted maxillofacial treatments, offering clarity on surgical sites.

Moving forward, the third chapter focuses on the application of CBCT and MRI data in CAD/CAM, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. The next chapter classifies cutting-edge additive manufacturing techniques into extrusion- and fusion-based technologies. The fifth chapter explores rapid prototyping models that aid surgical planning, providing valuable pre-surgery simulations.

The sixth chapter discusses bone contouring in the reconstruction of facial defects using computer-designed patient-specific implants. In Chapter 7, the focus is on patient-specific implants produced by CAD/CAM for functional mandibular bone replacement. The next chapter explores the use of tissue engineering and 3D printing for bone regeneration.

Chapters 9–11 delve into *in situ* bone regeneration, recent advances in orthognathic surgery, and facial cosmetic surgery, respectively. The twelfth chapter emphasises the importance of custom-made

dental implants for optimal oral rehabilitation. Chapter 13 explores the advantages, such as precision enhancement, and limitations, such as cost and size, of robotic surgery.

Chapter 15, serving as a valuable resource for individuals keen on understanding the fundamental principles of AI, along with Chapter 16, collectively define and introduce applications of artificial intelligence and machine learning in maxillofacial surgery. The subsequent chapter explores the performances and potential of artificial intelligence in precision medicine, tissue engineering, 3D and 4D printing, and robotic surgery, particularly when integrated with oral and maxillofacial surgery.

In Chapter 17, the focus is on bioprinting in maxillofacial surgery, utilising bio-ink for tissue scaffolds and addressing conventional printing issues. The last chapter explores the application of bioreactors in oral and maxillofacial surgery.

Overall, this book is a valuable resource, providing a comprehensive overview and practical insights into the latest advancements in the field, making it essential for professionals adopting these technologies in surgical practice.

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