

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.

PERIODONTOLOGY

Retention of hopeless teeth: the effect on the adjacent proximal bone following periodontal surgery

Machtei EE, Hirsch I *J Periodontol* 2007; **78**: 2246-2252

Hopeless teeth may be retained long-term with no adverse effect.

Teeth evaluated as periodontally hopeless (HT) are commonly extracted because of postulated further attachment loss. Studies disagree on whether extraction is a valid treatment. In this retrospective study, radiographs were examined for 57 retained HT in 50 subjects and 53 extracted HT in 43 subjects treated from 1990 to 2003. All decisions on whether to extract HT had been made by the patients.

Mean follow-up was 4.4 yrs (range 2-13). Retained HT gained a mean 0.8 mm bone ($P < 0.01$) and adjacent mesial and distal teeth, 0.3 mm. Where HT had been extracted, adjacent mesial teeth gained 0.7 mm bone, and distal teeth, 1.1 mm (no significant differences from teeth adjacent to retained HT).

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2008.575

REMOVABLE PROSTHODONTICS

Sex differences in denture satisfaction

Pan S, Awad M *et al. J Dent* 2008; **36**: 301-308

Females were less satisfied with conventional dentures (CDs) than males, but equally satisfied with implant-supported overdentures (IODs).

There are numerous gender differences in reported preferences on oral health. This Canadian study examined the satisfaction of edentulous men and women randomised to mandibular CDs (52 ♂, mean age 73 yrs; 65 ♀, 71) and IODs (51 ♂, mean age 72 yrs; 62 ♀, 73), in both cases opposed by maxillary CDs. All subjects were previous CD wearers and suitable for 2 implants with ball attachments.

There were 15 drop-outs from the IOD group, and 11 from the CD group. Both groups significantly improved satisfaction from baseline to 6 and 12 months after denture insertion. In the CD group only, females rated both aesthetics and chewing ability lower than males at 6 months, and aesthetics alone at 12 months. Gender ratings for overall satisfaction, comfort, stability, speaking ability and ease of cleaning did not differ in either group. There were no gender differences in the IOD group.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2008.576

DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Association between alcohol consumption and dental health

Jansson L *J Clin Periodontol* 2008; **35**: 379-384

There was an association with caries, but not periodontitis.

Studies have suggested that alcohol consumption is associated with tooth loss, and increased caries and periodontal disease have been reported with higher intakes. This paper reports findings of a longitudinal dental study of 513 subjects examined in Stockholm county in 1970 and 1990.

Stratified in 1 unit (1cl ethanol) bands for subjects taking 0 to >5 units/day, significant but small associations were found for caries, apical lesions, restorations and calculus, but not for number of teeth, gingival bleeding, bone level or tooth loss over the 20 yrs. Stepwise regression identified greater increases in caries, calculus and apical lesions as related to an intake of > 5 units/day. Subjects at this level were also more erratic in their dental attendance.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2008.577

ORAL ANATOMY

Three-dimensional changes in the position of unopposed molars in adults

Christou P, Kiliaridis S *Eur J Orthod* 2007; **29**: 543-549

Displacement of these teeth was clinically insignificant in periodontally healthy subjects.

Unopposed permanent teeth (UT) are commonly believed to migrate or overerupt in the long term, but there is little evidence of this. The present study compared subsequent position changes of 22 such teeth with 14 opposed control teeth (CT) over a minimum of 10 yrs in 12 healthy subjects aged 25-69 yrs (mean 46).

Periodontally affected UT overerupted a mean 2 mm and healthy UT, 0.6 mm ($P = 0.01$), and CT were similar to healthy UT (0.5 mm). Mesio-distal movement did not differ significantly between groups, but was greater when there was no mesially adjacent tooth. Palatal movement was slightly greater in UT than CT (mean 0.9 v. 0.5 mm, $P = 0.02$).

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2008.578