

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 John R. Radford.

ENDODONTIC INSTRUMENTATION

Canal preparation using only one Ni-Ti rotary instrument: Preliminary observations

Yared G. *Int Endodont J* 2008; **41**: 339-344

Preparation of root canal using one rotary instrument.

The author cites a recent study that reported prions in human pulp tissue. Adopting the precautionary principle therefore, the use of single-use endodontic instruments is mandatory for infection control but may also minimise instrument fracture.

This paper describes a new technique whereby the canal preparation is completed with one F2 ProTaper instrument using a motor with specific characteristics (greater clockwise than counter-clockwise rotations in order to minimise taper-lock). Before this, the canal is negotiated to the working length with a size 08 hand file. The use of this technique is illustrated by a series of radiographs showing treatment of patients. The Editorial Board of the above journal issued a disclaimer saying 'the views expressed do not necessarily represent best practice'.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2008.846

DENTAL PHOBIA

Oral health and oral treatment needs in patients fulfilling the DSM-IV criteria for dental phobia: Possible influence on the outcome of cognitive behavioral therapy

Agdal ML, Raadal M *et al. Acta Odontol Scand* 2008; **66**: 1-6

Less favourable outcomes for dental phobics with high treatment need.

There is little robust data on the oral health of patients with a formal diagnosis of dental phobia and no studies as to the outcome of the management of such anxiety. The aim of this study therefore, was 1) to determine the oral health in a group of patients with dental phobia and 2) to report changes in self-reported anxiety following the use of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), before and after dental treatment.

Despite the limitations of carrying out accurate oral diagnosis on such patients, not unexpectedly, their oral health is worse than that of the general population. With respect to the efficacy of CBT, patients with an initially large treatment need experienced less positive outcomes and felt more anxiety 1 year after treatment than those with minor treatment need.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2008.847

EROSION: TOOTH PASTE

Impact of different toothpastes on the prevention of erosion

Lussi A, Megert B *et al. Caries Res* 2008; **42**: 62-67

Toothpastes tested do not protect against erosion.

Dental erosion may be increasing. It would therefore be of merit to develop toothpastes with protection against erosion.

This *in vitro* study measured surface microhardness on human enamel specimens 1) after incubation in a toothpaste slurry following by acid softening and artificial saliva exposure and 2) subjecting other specimens to acid softening followed by incubation in a toothpaste slurry and then artificial saliva. For the control, toothpaste was excluded. Amongst the toothpastes tested were Pronamel, Signal Active and Zendium.

The authors found that none of the toothpastes they studied, nor immersion of the specimens for up to 4 hours in artificial saliva, led to a complete recovery of microhardness. However, regression analysis demonstrated that the application of toothpaste before the erosive challenge produced more favourable results compared with post-exposure of toothpaste.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2008.848

ORAL AND FACIAL PIERCING

Oral and facial piercing: Associated complications and clinical repercussion

Garcia-Pola MJ, Garcia-Martin JM *et al. Quintessence Int.* 2008; **39**: 51-59

Oral piercings were associated with more pain and swelling than facial piercings.

Complications associated with oral and facial piercings range from the banal to those that are life-threatening. The aim of this cross-sectional study, carried out on over 2,000 consecutive dental patients attending a general dental practice in Oliveido, Spain (non-probability sample), was to establish the prevalence of piercings and whether this practice results in serious complications. Excluding piercing of ear-lobes in women, 83 of these patients (3.6%) had piercings of which over 80% were placed in a tattoo studio. Almost 60% reported local complications, including those frequently cited in the literature. Pain and swelling were more significantly associated with oral, compared with facial sites. No serious complications were reported in this study.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2008.849