

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 RETREATMENT

Surgical versus non-surgical endodontic retreatment for periradicular lesions

Del Fabbro M, Taschieri S *et al. Aust Dent J* 2007; **52**: 340-341

Scarce evidence when considering endodontic retreatment.

For those teeth that do not respond to endodontic treatment, there is a dilemma as to whether or not to repeat this or to carry out periradicular surgery. The authors only identified three randomised control studies (RCTs) of sufficient quality on which to base a decision. In the short term, healing rates were higher for surgical intervention. Only one RCT reported data for 4 years after re-treatment, and found there was no difference in outcome between the two treatment modalities. Both the original Cochrane Review and the commentary published in this journal conclude with the familiar mantra that there is a need for more well-designed RCTs.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2008.945

SNORING

Risk factors and correlates of snoring and observed apnea

Ekici M, Ekici A *et al. Sleep Med* 2008; **9**: 290-296

Apnoeic snoring may increase prevalence of road traffic accidents.

Most snorers are 'simple' or nonapnoeic. In some people however, snoring is an 'important manifestation of obstructive sleep apnea syndrome'. The aims of this study were to explore risk factors for snoring and to look for associations with snoring such as road traffic accidents (RTAs). Using an unusual recruitment strategy, primary school children from Kirikkale, Turkey asked their parents and grandparents to complete a questionnaire. Over 13 thousand questionnaires were distributed with a 90% response rate. The data was analysed using a multivariate linear model. After removal of confounders, exposure to smoke from cooking and heating and smoking tobacco were associated with an increased risk of snoring and apnoea. There was a trend that snoring and observed apnoea compromised some quality of life factors such as sleep disturbance and perceived ability. As for RTAs and falling asleep at the driving wheel, there were significant associations with snoring. This paper did not discuss treatment for snoring such as continuous/bi-level pressure or mandibular advancement devices.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2008.946

VIEWS ON DENTISTRY

Understanding the motivation: a qualitative study of dental students' choice of professional career

Gallagher J, Clark W *et al. Eur J Dent Educ* 2008; **12**: 89-98

Final year dental students have a pragmatic view of dentistry.

This qualitative study uses the ubiquitous focus group. Thirty-five final year dental students were recruited from representative backgrounds and asked open questions. From these responses, new topics arose until no more emerged. When asked why they chose dentistry, anticipated personal lifestyle appeared to be more important than altruism. This was illustrated by the comment '...you want your life to be the core and your career more round the side'. When asked how they viewed patients, one respondent considered that there are two types: NHS patients '...where you drill a hole and fill it' and private patients that are '...more proactive and motivated'. When their opinion was sought about the future of dentistry one interviewee said '...some people say everything's going to be fine, other people say it's going to be an absolute disaster'.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2008.947

INFECTION CONTROL – IDENTITY BADGES

What's hanging around your neck? Pathogenic bacteria on identity badges and lanyards

Kotsanas D, Scott C *et al. Med J Aust* 2008; **188**: 5-8

Identity badges hanging from lanyards may provide a vector for infection transmission.

Name badges can be worn hanging from the neck by a lanyard that can brush against patients and healthcare worker alike. The aim of this study was to determine if the wearing of name badges in this way can provide a vector for transmission of pathogenic agents. The researchers cultured total bacterial counts from badges attached by lanyards and from badges attached by clips, worn by 59 healthcare workers working in three wards, with a further 12 non-clinical subjects recruited as controls. The cultures were then examined for nosocomial pathogenic organisms. Bacterial counts recovered from badges dangling from lanyards were 10 fold higher when compared with those attached by clips. The authors conclude that identity badges hanging from lanyards could either '...be changed frequently or disposed of altogether in preference to clipped-on identity badges'.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2008.948