

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.

SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

How people on social assistance perceive, experience, and improve oral health

Bedos C, Levine A *et al.* *J Dent Res* 2009; **88**: 653–657

'poverty influences poor oral health...which in turn reinforces poverty,...'

Most investigators have focused on the barriers as to why those who are disenfranchised do not access dental care. Yet there are few studies examining what this group of people feel about their oral health and whether or not it can be improved. In order to explore these issues, this study adopted a qualitative research methodology involving 15 individual interviews on each of 8 focus groups. The subjects comprised French-speaking adults receiving 'social assistance' living in Montreal, Canada. It was found that they placed 'tremendous value on dental appearance'. However, they felt helpless to improve their oral health despite it having a 'devastating impact on self-esteem, social interaction, and employability'. The authors assert that 'Contrary to common belief, people on social assistance care about their oral health and appearance'.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2009.1035

DENTAL ANXIETY IN ADULTS

Anxiety and pain during dental injections

van Wijk AJ, Hoogstraten J. *J Dent* 2009; **37**: 700–704

'patients receiving surface anesthesia felt pain of longer duration...'

The aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between anxiety and pain in patients receiving an injection before undergoing dental treatment. All 247 patients in this study were from Istanbul and categorised by the authors as 'normal'. Not unexpectedly, they found 'Anxious patients felt more pain and of longer duration than less anxious patients'. However, they did find that the use of surface anaesthesia resulted in patients feeling pain of longer duration but not of higher intensity. The authors suggest an explanation for this is that a surface anaesthetic was applied more often when large amounts of anaesthetic fluid were administered. It was not possible to look for relationships between the levels of anxiety and the invasiveness of treatment they were about to receive as there was insufficient statistical power.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2009.1036

DENTAL ANXIETY IN CHILDREN

Anticipatory anxiety in children visiting the dentist: lack of effect of preparatory information

Olumide F, Newton J. T *et al.* *Int J Paediatr Dent* 2009; **19**: 338–342

Information leaflets had no effect on dental anxiety in children.

'Anticipatory anxiety' is the worry that a person feels without the actual presence of the feared stimulus. The aim of this study was to ascertain if leaflets could reduce such anxiety. Using a triple-masked, randomised control study, fifty children aged 8–12 attending a 'secondary care' paediatric dental clinic, were asked to read either a child-friendly dental information leaflet (the experimental group) or one on the benefits of healthy eating (control group). When self-reported anxiety (Facial Image score) was measured before and 15 minutes after reading the dental information leaflet, it had no significant effect compared with the control leaflet. The authors admit however, that there were confounding variables such as the 'previous experience of medical and dental treatment'.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2009.1037

PAPILLA FILL WITH IMPLANTS

Influence of the tooth- and implant-side marginal bone level on the interproximal papilla dimension in a single implant with a microthread, conical seal, and platform-switched design

Kwon H-J, Lee D-W *et al.* *J Periodontol* 2009; **80**: 1541–1547

No 'black triangle disease' if less than 5 mm from the implant/tooth contact area to the crestal bone.

In each of 17 patients, a 'platform-switched' implant was placed using a conventional two-stage procedure in a posterior sextant. At least 6 months after restoration, measurements were recorded from standardised radiographs. The tip of the papilla was identified using a radio-opaque material. 'Perfect papilla fill' was observed in a third of subjects and occurred if the distance from the implant/tooth contact area to the crestal bone was less than 5 mm. Multiple linear regression analysis revealed that the bone level at the adjacent tooth had a significant influence on whether or not there was papilla fill. Such a relationship was not shown for the bone level at the implant. The investigators however, did not examine if the distance between the implant and adjacent tooth influenced their conclusion.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2009.1038