

The BDJ News section accepts items that include general news, latest research and diary events that interest our readers. Press releases or articles may be edited, and should include a colour photograph if possible.

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BONJELA UNSAFE FOR UNDER-16s

Ulcer gel Bonjela should not be given to children under 16 years of age because of fears it could cause Reye's syndrome, a serious brain and liver condition. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) issued the precautionary advice for topical oral pain relief gels containing salicylate salts, which include Bonjela and Bonjela Cool.

The new advice recommends that these products should only be used in patients who are 16 years of age and over. This is due to salicylate salts having the same effect on the body as aspirin, which is already contraindicated in children and young people less than 16 years of age.

Although there have been no reported cases of Reye's syndrome caused by the gel, the decision was made in order to bring it into line with other aspirin containing products for this age group. The MHRA's new advice does not affect Bonjela Teething Gel, which is safe to use in children from two months old.

Dr Aomesh Bhatt, Director of Regulatory and Medical Affairs North Europe for Bonjela owners Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare UK, said, 'We have been working very closely with the MHRA regarding this new precautionary advice for topi-

cal oral pain relief gels containing salicylate salts. Reckitt Benckiser has taken the decision to redesign the packaging for Bonjela and Bonjela Cool, both of which are now clearly labelled "Adults and children over 16", and also redesigned Bonjela Teething Gel, to ensure the safe and appropriate use of the Bonjela range.'

Pyrvalvex, an oral paint for denture pain and the relief of mouth ulcer pain, is another product containing salicylic acid. It is a pharmacy-only medicine and is currently available for children over

12 years of age, but is now recommended not to be used in people under the age of 16. Gels, pastes and mouthwashes containing salicylate are regarded as safe for use in adults over 16 years old.

The recommendations for alternatives to treat pain associated with infant teething and mouth ulcers include gentle pressure with something cool such as a chilled teething ring for infant teething pain and dental gels containing a local anaesthetic/mild antiseptic to relieve pain associated with infant teething and mouth ulcers.



The MHRA's new advice does not affect Bonjela Teething Gel

NEW CENTRE OFFERS ROOT CANALS ALONGSIDE FACELIFTS

A new £3 million dental centre of excellence has opened in Glasgow. The Scottish Centre for Excellence in Dentistry (SCED) was founded by Scottish specialist dental surgeon Arshad Ali, and has a 40-strong team of dental surgeons, doctors, nurses and hygienists, along with a dedicated administrative team.

The 7,240 sq ft private centre boasts a CT scanner, seven surgeries, digital radiography, a decontamination room to sterilise instruments, and its own in-house laboratory.

It will provide everything from root canal work to implants, while oral and facial surgeons will undertake

facelifts, cosmetic surgery, wisdom tooth renewal and eye bag removal. Specialised nursing staff will carry out popular rejuvenation treatments such as chemical peels.

Arshad Ali, 53, previously operated from a clinic in Niddrie Square, Queens Park, Glasgow and when his expanding practice outgrew the premises, he decided to build the new centre.



NO EVIDENCE FOR EXTRACTING BABY CANINE TEETH

Researchers have been unable to identify a single high quality study to support the practice of extracting primary canine teeth to make way for adult canines that are erupting in the wrong place. The practice has no evidential basis, according to the study, by Cochrane researchers in the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2009, Issue 2.

'The recommendation of extracting the baby canine is in fact based on one uncontrolled study that was carried out over twenty years ago,' says lead author of the study Nicola Parkin of the Department of Oral Health and Development at the University of Sheffield. The most commonly cited evidence for this practice comes from this one trial, carried out in 1988, in which a group of children with canine displacement had their baby canines extracted.

A major flaw of this study was the absence of a control group. Two other studies considered for the review did

have an untreated control group, but had to be excluded because of inadequacies in reporting.

Adult canine teeth usually erupt in the mouth around the age of 12 years and, in approximately 2-3% of the population of 12 year old children, these teeth become displaced in the roof of the mouth.

Displaced canines can cause damage to neighbouring teeth as well as unfavourable movement of other teeth and, more rarely, cysts. One suggested way of avoiding canine displacement and encouraging the eruption of the adult canine is to remove a child's baby canine tooth at around 10 to 13 years, under local anaesthetic.

'Extracting the primary canine may help the secondary tooth to emerge correctly, but at this time we can't provide any hard evidence,' says Dr Parkin. 'Greater attention to the design and reporting of studies is needed to improve the quality of clinical trials on this topic.'

BOTTLED WATER TREND MAY BE HARMFUL TO TEETH

The trend for bottled water could be damaging teeth, according to new research conducted in America. According to a study published in the January/February 2009 issue of *General Dentistry*, the journal of the Academy of General Dentistry, bottled water fans are missing out on the valuable fluoride found in tap water. Researchers tested the fluoride content in more than 100 different samples of bottled water, which fell into six categories, distilled, drinking/purified,



spring/artesian, mineral, fluoride-added and flavour-added.

Of the total 105 samples, the fluoride concentrations in the majority of the samples fell below the US Government's recommended range of 0.7-1.2 parts per million (ppm), the ideal range to prevent cavities. Only five samples met the recommended range.

Lead author of the study, Ryan L. Quock, DDS, recommends that consumers speak with their dentist about their primary drinking water source. 'Understanding consumers' water drinking habits is extremely important,' he says. 'Determining if they are drinking appropriately fluoridated water, especially when they have or are at risk for cavities, is crucial information, because fluoridated water is an automatic way for them to help improve their oral health. Talking to them also allows us to have a conversation about fluoride's effects, mainly focusing on its relationship to dental caries and fluorosis.'

BDHF CLARIFIES ADVICE

The British Dental Health Foundation wishes to make it clear that it does not endorse the advice within a recent press release issued by the British Cheese Board in advance of National Smile Month.

The release suggested a partnership between the Foundation and the British Cheese Board seeking to 'encourage children to chew a small portion of hard cheese after consuming a sugary drink or snack.'

The Foundation clearly advises children and the public as a whole to limit their consumption of sugary food and drinks, which can cause tooth decay. Though alkaline cheese is suggested to help restore the mouth's acidic balance after eating, easing the risk of erosion and decay, the Foundation also advises moderation in its consumption due to salt and fat content.

DENTISTS INVITED TO GIVE OPINIONS FOR NHS DENTISTRY REVIEW

Dentists and their teams from across the country are being asked to share their views on how to improve the access to and quality of NHS dentistry by Professor Jimmy Steele, chair of the independent review team for NHS dentistry.

The five engagements in Newcastle, Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester and London are being held during April and May. Remaining engagements include Bristol on 12 May 2009 and Birmingham on 13 May 2009.

Since its appointment in December 2008, the review team has been investigating why there are variations in access to dentistry in England and how the NHS can deliver continuous improvements in the quality of care.

At the events, Professor Steele will discuss the emerging findings of the

review with people involved in delivering and improving NHS dental services, inviting them to contribute to the development of recommendations. He commented, 'The NHS dentistry review is giving me and the review team some very useful insights into what matters most to both patients and the dental profession. I'd like to encourage dentists and their teams to share their opinions at these events and help us start to develop our recommendations.'

The results of the study, 'A Review of NHS Dentistry in England' will be published this summer. For further information visit www.glasgows.co.uk/dentistryreview and for details on the NHS independent dentistry review, or to read Professor Jimmy Steele's blog visit www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/

Primarycare/Dental/DH_094048.

If you would like to contribute to the NHS dentistry review in writing, please send your views and recommendations to Jimmy Steele at dentistry.review@dh.gsi.gov.uk or by mail to Professor of Oral Health Research, School of Dental Sciences, Newcastle University, Framlington Place, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4BW.

Members of the independent review team for NHS Dentistry are Professor Jimmy Steele, Chair in Oral Health Services Research at the School of Dental Sciences in Newcastle, Eric Rooney, Consultant in Dental Public Health at Cumbria PCT, Janet Clarke, Clinical Director of Salaried Dental Services, Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT and Tom Wilson, Director of Contracts, Milton Keynes PCT.

REVALIDATION WORKSHOPS AT THE BDA CONFERENCE

The General Dental Council will be running revalidation workshops at this year's British Dental Association Conference in Glasgow (4-6 June 2009).

The workshops will be held on Friday 5 June at 9.30am and repeated at 11.30am in Boisdale 2 at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre.

Dental professionals can find out about how revalidation will affect

them and give feedback on revalidation proposals. You will need a conference pass to attend the sessions, and can book your workshop place in advance.

For those unable to attend, the GDC are also running an open consultation on revalidation: <http://www.gdc-uk.org/News+publications+and+events/Consultations/>

NEW WEBSITE FOR DENTAL NURSES LAUNCHED

The National Examining Board for Dental Nurses (NEBDN) launched its new website www.nebdn.org earlier this month. The organisation, which was founded in 1943, is the most recognised awarding body for dental nurses in the UK.

The new site will provide information across all NEBDN qualifications and include syllabuses and lists of accredited training centres as well as a frequently asked questions section explaining many issues around the examination process.

A registered charity, the NEBDN's main objective is the education and training of men and women as dental nurses, aiming to advance the education of dental nurses for the benefit of the public. The

organisation sets and publishes syllabuses of study for dental nurses and other dental staff to enable levels of skill and safety to be achieved.

Phil Hughes, who was newly appointed as Chief Executive of the NEBDN earlier this year explained, 'The development of our website has been based around the needs of dental nurses themselves. What we have produced is access to all the information about our examinations including revision packs and exam prospectuses as well as links to other relevant websites'.

The NEBDN currently provides a range of primary and post-registration qualifications. To find out more visit www.nebdn.org

HEAD OF DENTAL COMPLAINTS SERVICE APPOINTED

Hazel Adams has been appointed as the new head of the Dental Complaints Service, which helps resolve complaints about private dental care. The Dental Complaints Service was set up and is funded by, but is independent of, the General Dental Council.

The service has been running for three years and so far has received nearly 20,000 calls on its complaints hotline, resulting in nearly 4,500 complaints. Two thirds of complaints are closed within a week. To contact the Dental Complaints Service, call 08456 120540 (local rate), visit www.dental-complaints.org.uk, or email info@den-talcomplaints.org.uk.



DIARY

MAY

Clinical Innovations Conference and Annenberg Lecture

Date: 15-16 May 2009
Venue: Royal College of Physicians, London
Tel: 020 7400 8989
Email: info@smile-on.com
www.smile-on.com

JUNE

British Dental Association Conference and Exhibition 2009

Date: 4-6 June 2009
Venue: Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow
www.bda.org/events

World Aesthetic Congress (WAC)

Date: 12-13 June 2009
Venue: Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London
www.independentseminars.com

JULY

10th Annual Rural Dental Conference

Date: July 3 2009
Venue: Gregynog Hall, Wales
Tel: 01686 650800.

FGDP(UK) Implementation of the Dentists with Special Interests Scheme

Date: 3 July 2009
Venue: BMA House, London
Tel: 020 7869 6772
Email: fgdp-education@rcseng.ac.uk

FDI Rio Caries Conference

Date: 15-17 July 2009
Venue: Rio Centro Exhibition and Convention Centre, Brazil
www.fdiworldental.org

COLLABORATION ON GLOBAL CHILD ORAL HEALTH

King's Centre for International Child Oral Health and the Harvard School of Dental Medicine have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a close working relationship on the Global Child Dental Health Taskforce's leadership programme.

The collaboration is to be led by Professor Raman Bedi, Head of the Global Child Dental Health Taskforce and the Centre for International Child Oral Health at the Dental Institute of King's College London, and Professor Bruce Donoff, Dean of Harvard Dental School. The agreement was signed by Professor Nairn Wilson, Dean of the Dental Institute at King's, and Professor Bruce Donoff during a gala dinner at Chandos House.

According to Professor Bedi the leadership programme presents a platform for open discussion and exchange of expe-

riences, as well as problem-solving. He commented, 'We are already witnessing the benefits of the programmes: many who attended our leadership courses went on to spearhead successful and sustainable national prevention programmes. This is the way forward if we are to see an eradication of dental disease world-wide.'

The Global Child Dental Health Taskforce aims to identify, train and mentor 400 dental leaders over the next ten years, who will in turn significantly shape the dental profession and drive forward its aims in the first half of the 21st century. The programme is designed to develop leadership skills specifically in the area of child dental health.

The Global Child Dental Health Taskforce was established in January 2006 after 40 senior dental advisors and chief dental officers called for its formation.



Professors Nairn Wilson, Bruce Donoff and Raman Bedi

WALK TO RAISE MOUTH CANCER AWARENESS

The Mouth Cancer Foundation launched its 4th annual 10 km walk website earlier this month. Dr Vinod Joshi, founder, is encouraging dental, medical and health-care practitioners, friends and family from all over the UK to sign up and take part in the free 10 km walk on 26 September 2009 at 14:00 (13:00 arrival) in Hyde Park, London in order to raise much needed awareness of mouth cancer.

The event is being supported by pop star Natasha Hamilton, who says, 'Mouth cancer is a disease that has affected my family, as it is how my Nan died. The Mouth Cancer Foundation plays a pivotal role in counselling and supporting patients and families who have to go through the horrors of mouth cancer through its online support group and telephone support

service. Without them there would be no support for sufferers.'

There will be free mouth cancer screening, plus prizes available for top individual and team fundraisers as well as top individual and team awareness raisers. Costumes are invited for those feeling brave. Money raised from the walk will help the Mouth Cancer Foundation improve its support for patients and carers. To take part visit www.mouthcancerwalk.org.