

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.

RE-USING CASTINGS

Technique for removing cement between a fixed prosthesis and its substructure

Alsiyabi A S & Felton D A *Journal of Prosthodont* 2009; **18**: 279–282

Heating in a furnace in order to separate the substructure from the superstructure.

This paper revisits a method that allows the separation of a metal substructure from its superstructure. These can then be re-used either temporarily or permanently. In the first clinical example, the loose screws that partially retained abutments to implants were located by preparing an access channel through the bridge. The screws were fully removed. The substructure that was cemented to the superstructure was then separated by heating in a furnace. The abutments were cleaned by air-abrasion, re-used and another bridge was constructed. For another patient, a cast dowel was separated from a metal ceramic crown, again by firing in a furnace. The cleaned dowel was then recemented before 'remargination' of the preparation and fabrication of another crown.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2009.780

PROFESSIONAL MORALS

Dentists' ethical practical knowledge: a critical issue for dental education

Ardenghi D M *Eur J Dent Educ* 2009; **13**: 69–72

'Memorization of ethical theories, codes, acts, and so on is mindless in comparison to solving an ethical dilemma'.

When offering a novice dentist the theoretical approaches to ethical care and shaping these using an experiential model, the author argues that there are parallels with teaching. In teacher's parlance this is referred to as 'teachers' personal practical knowledge'. The experienced dentist has an increased insight into the ethical dimensions of oral health care by acquiring the 'the practical judgment that comes with experience (what Aristotle referred to as phronesis)'. Just as 'would-be teachers acquire cultural norms and expectations about schooling' that are moulded by experience, so dentists should apply their 'particular form of knowledgeability' acquired during their undergraduate training throughout their careers. It is argued that the ethical continuum should be blended using personal background and situations that result in embodied 'images'. It should not be a mere adoption of abstract concepts.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2009.781

CHILDREN'S WELLBEING

British Society of Paediatric Dentistry: a policy document on dental neglect in children

Harris J C, Balmer R C *et al. Int J Paediatr Dent* 2009
DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-263X.2009.00996.x

'How can we support you in looking after your children's teeth?'

This is not one of those anodyne positional statements but instead a document that identifies issues and makes clear recommendations as to how better deliver dental health to children. A common thread running through this paper is a shift from victim-blaming to working with families. An example of this is 'by asking the simple question, 'How can we support you in looking after your children's teeth?'. Failed appointments may be a surrogate marker for neglect but the authors qualify this by citing inequalities in accessing care and dental fear. Approaches to ethical dilemmas are proposed. With respect to child autonomy, 'their freedom to make their own decisions, should be taken seriously'. The authors state that multi-agencies should work in partnership in order to facilitate oral health actions and, at the heart of these should be the child's welfare.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2009.782

NUTRITION

Nutrition and health: guidelines for dental practitioners

C Palacios, Joshipura K J *et al. Oral Diseases* 2009; **15**: 369–381

Little evidence to link lost teeth with 'chronic disease risks'.

This review cites almost 200 references. Surprisingly, total fat intake is not associated with 'long-term control of body weight', risk of cardiovascular disease and cancer but the 'quality of fat' may be important. A meta-analysis has shown that a range of different antioxidants did not have a protective effect on the progression of atherosclerosis. In addition, their role in the prevention of certain cancers is not clear but they could 'alter the inflammatory process in periodontitis'. The consumption of fruits shows a consistent inverse association with oral cancer and 'for vegetables, the strongest inverse association is seen for tomatoes'. Beta-carotene supplements reduce the 'risk of oral cancers and the remission of precancers'. Generally, the diet is compromised in those who have lost teeth although 'their significance with respect to chronic disease risks (are) uncertain'.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2009.783