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.

HEALTHY EATING

The effect of functional dentition on healthy eating index scores and nutrient intakes in a nationally representative sample of older adults

Ervin RB, Dye BA. *J Public Health Dent* 2009; DOI: 10.1111/j.1752-7325.2009.00124.x

No association between dentate status and nutrient intake.

Multivariate linear regression analysis was used to examine associations between a functional dentition, the Healthy Eating Index (HEI) score and nutrient intake in subjects over 60 years of age. These subjects were randomly selected from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), 1999–2002. Of 4,976 eligible adults, 2,560 were included in the final analysis. The dental status was classified as edentulous, 1–20 teeth and 21 or more teeth. The investigators did not take into account whether or not missing teeth were replaced with prostheses. The diet was quantified using a 24-hour recall diary. After controlling for confounders, there were no statistically significant associations between dentate status, HEI and nutrient intake. However, generally older people with no teeth consumed fewer servings of fruits and vegetables. In addition, 'the diets of both sexes 'need improvement' regardless of dentate status.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2009.874

ACCESS CAVITIES TO LOWER INCISOR TEETH

Labial access opening in mandibular anterior teeth – an alternative approach to success

Logani A, Singh A *et al. Quintessence Int* 2009; 40: 597–602

The authors assert that 'variations from this approach (labial access preparation) should be an exception'.

Two methods, each carried out on the same 100 extracted mandibular incisor teeth, were used to examine if either buccally or lingually positioned access cavities more effectively achieved a straight line access to the apex. In the first method, radiographic examination showed the canal was projected on the buccal surface in 9 teeth, on the lingual surface in one tooth with the majority of the remaining samples projected 'bucco-incisally'. The second method comprised determining the tooth weight loss after the preparation of 50 lingual and 50 buccal access cavities. These were subsequently refined in order to achieve a straight-line access. The authors state that the operator was blind to the study design. Access from the lingual surface resulted in significantly greater removal of tooth substance.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2009.875

ORAL HEALTH IMPACT

Oral health impact on quality of life in an adult Swedish population

Einarson S, Gerdin EW *et al. Acta Odontol Scand* 2009; 67: 85–93

One in ten respondents had 'difficulties (with their oral health) severe enough for them to (be)...totally unable to function'.

Using a stratified random sampling method, 910 subjects living in Jönköping, Sweden, were invited to answer a questionnaire looking at associations between quality of life and oral health. 'Oral health impact on quality of life was examined using the OHIP-14 questionnaire'. Fifty-seven percent of individuals consented to participate in the study. However, a half of 80-year-olds declined. Twenty-one percent of the respondents were happy with their oral condition whereas 10% (12% in Results) had 'difficulties severe enough for them to (be)...totally unable to function'. Interestingly, 20-year-old women felt that their oral condition had the greatest adverse effect on their everyday well-being, whereas 70-year-old men were most satisfied. Explanations for this are that 'changes in perception and values may occur with increasing age.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2009.876

MINISCREWS

Survival analyses of surgical miniscrews as orthodontic anchorage

Viwattanapita N, Thanakitcharu S *et al. Am J Orthod Dentofacial Orthop* 2009; 136: 29–36

More than one third of orthodontic miniscrews failed within a year.

Ninety-seven titanium surgical miniscrews of various dimensions were placed in the maxillae of 49 patients. Either a 2-stage or 1-stage technique for placement was used. In the two-stage method, mucosal closure over the miniscrew was achieved at placement. It was then exposed at a subsequent appointment. No randomisation was reported. Cumulative survival rates were 85% at 6 months and 57% at 1 year. 'The median survival time was 15.47 months'. Survival or failure were not associated with the sex of the patient, type of malocclusion and quadrant placement. Other variables were studied but because of 'subgroups sizes', it was not possible to carry out statistical analyses. The '2-stage surgical procedure was the most significant predictor for failure'. The position of the miniscrew was the next most important factor for failure with a high level placement in the nonkeratinised mucosa having an inferior outcome.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2009.877