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.

ABSTRACTS

'EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE'

Emotional intelligence of dental students and patient satisfaction

Azimi S, Asghar Nejad Farid AA *et al. Eur J Dent Educ* 2010; **14:** 129–132

Contrary to other reports, this study found a significant relationship between 'emotional intelligence' of dental students and patient satisfaction levels.

'Emotional intelligence' ('array of personal, emotional and social competencies that enables one to cope with environmental demands') is a purported attribute that has been used in the commercial sector. There is little dispute however, that a mature patient/carer relationship has many benefits including more favourable treatment outcomes. It is suggested that those with 'emotional intelligence' could deliver such patient/carer synergy. The 'emotional intelligence' of 123 senior students studying in, Iran was measured. In addition, the satisfaction of their patients, attending for an information gathering appointment, was quantified. Male students scored significantly higher for stress control, general mood and intrapersonal scales than female students and there was a significant association between these attributes in students and patient satisfaction.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2010.1034

ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES

The impact of oral contraceptives on women's periodontal health and the subgingival occurrence of aggressive periodontopathogens and *Candida* species

Brusca MI, Rosa A *et al. J Periodontol* 2010; **81:** 1010-1018

'OC (oral contraceptive) use may increase the risk of severe periodontitis and seems to cause a selection of certain *Candida* species in periodontal pockets.'

Clinical hunch may not concur with findings from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys I and III that did not find a relationship between those women who take OCs and inflammation of the periodontal tissues. The aim of this study was to look for associations between clinical measurements for periodontal disease, the usual putative periodontal pathogens recovered from subgingival plaque samples, and women taking OCs. In addition, the investigators also identified a whole array of *Candida* spp. Those women who took OCs had more severe periodontal disease, a higher prevalence of periodontopathic organisms and *Candida* spp. compared with the control group.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2010.1035

ARTICAINE

The efficacy and safety of articaine versus lignocaine in dental treatments: a meta-analysis

Katyal V. *J Dent* 2010; **38:** 307-317

'This meta-analysis thus supports a recommendation for 4% articaine (1:100,000 epinephrine) in routine dental practice over and above 2% lignocaine (1:100,000 epinephrine).'

Nine studies met inclusion criteria for this meta-analysis. The author reported that 4% articaine is more effective at achieving analgesia in the first molar area, than 2% lidocaine (relative risk for success =1.31; P = 0.0009). When considering safety, the author cited a study that did not confirm the finding of an earlier paper that showed that articaine increased the risk of non-surgical postoperative paraesthesia (the paper by Garisto GA, Gaffen AS *et al. J Am Dent Assoc* 2010; **141:** 836-844, summarised below, had not yet been published). Even though there is this doubt as to the safety of 4% articaine, the key conclusion from this systematic review is that this local analgesic agent should be used routinely. The 'use of articaine is not recommended in children under 4 years of age as no data exist to support such use.'

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2010.1036

PARAESTHESIA ASSOCIATED WITH LOCAL ANALGESICS

Occurrence of paresthesia after dental local anesthetic administration in the United States

Garisto GA, Gaffen AS *et al. J Am Dent Assoc* 2010; **141:** 836-844

Incidents of paraesthesia were significantly higher with 4% local analgesic agents, whether or not this was 4% prilocaine or 4% articaine.

This paper reports incidents of paraesthesia after administration of local analgesic agents over a 10 year period to August 2008. The data were obtained from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Adverse Event Reporting System. The investigators found that reports (of paraesthesia) 'involving 4 percent prilocaine and 4 percent articaine were 7.3 and 3.6 times, respectively, greater than expected'. Subsequent treatment, even if this was dento-alveolar surgery, did not appear to influence these findings. Consistent with other studies, the lingual nerve was involved in 89% of occurrences. Recognition bias (reporting of untoward incidents only if they are in the scientific/dental domain) should be balanced with the findings of another study that showed 'only 6 percent of adverse events were reported.'

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2010.1037