

## BULLYING SCIENTIFICALLY LINKED TO MALOCCLUSION

A new study shows that there is a clear link between being bullied and the presence of 'sticking out teeth' or malocclusion.

A team of hospital-based clinicians who primarily treat children with malocclusion have conducted a UK-based study investigating the relationship between being bullied and the presence of a malocclusion, and its effect on an individual's self-esteem and 'oral health-related quality of life'. Three hundred and thirty-six adolescents aged between 10-14 years of age took part in this study which is being published in *Journal of Orthodontics* (2011; 38: 247-256) this month.

Key findings of the study show that: nearly 13% of adolescents aged between 10-14 years examined for orthodontic treatment had been bullied; being bullied is significantly associated with 'sticking out teeth';



these individuals have a higher need for orthodontic treatment based on an aesthetic assessment; and adolescents who are being bullied due to the presence of a malocclusion reported a negative impact on both self-esteem and oral health-related quality of life.

'It has previously been shown that children with "sticking out teeth" and "crooked teeth" are subjected to teasing related to the position and appearance of their teeth,' said Dr Andrew DiBiase, one of the consultants involved in the research. 'However, until this research was carried out the scientific evidence for this was weak and more importantly the psychological effects of this teasing and bullying related to the dental appearance has been unknown'.

The four clinicians have launched a website to disseminate the findings of the study and provide advice for both parents and adolescents who are being bullied due to the presence of a malocclusion. The clinicians are also requesting such people who have been bullied to fill in a web-based questionnaire to enable them to continue to monitor the extent of the problem.

<https://sites.google.com/site/bullyingandorthodontics/>

## DIARY

### AOG Conference to Africa

Date: February 2012  
[www.aoguk.org/events.html](http://www.aoguk.org/events.html)

### iTOP implant course

Date: 24 March 2012  
Location: Scotland  
Telephone: 01480 862084  
Email: [info@curaprox.co.uk](mailto:info@curaprox.co.uk)  
[www.curaprox.co.uk](http://www.curaprox.co.uk)

### ADI Masterclass: Maxillary Alveolar Ridge Regenerative Strategies

Date: 26 March 2012  
Venue: Royal College of Surgeons of England, London  
Early-bird fee before 16 December 2011  
Telephone: 020 8487 5555  
[www.adi.org.uk/masterclass2012](http://www.adi.org.uk/masterclass2012)

### Dental Protection

#### Dento-Legal Study Day

Date: 30 March 2012  
Location: London  
Telephone: 020 7399 2914  
<http://www.dentalprotection.org/uk/events/dlsd2012>

### 13th Congress of the World Federation of Laser Dentistry

Date: 26-28 April 2012  
Location: Barcelona  
Email: [wfld2012@kenes.com](mailto:wfld2012@kenes.com)  
[www.wfld-barcelona2012.com](http://www.wfld-barcelona2012.com)

### British Dental Conference and Exhibition 2012

Date: 26-28 April 2012  
Venue: Manchester Central Convention Complex  
[www.bda.org/conference](http://www.bda.org/conference)

### Excellence in Dentistry 2012 Conference

Date: 26-29 April 2012  
Location: Istanbul  
[www.excellence-in-dentistry.org](http://www.excellence-in-dentistry.org)

### The Clinical Innovations Conference 2012

Date: 18-19 May 2012  
Venue: Millennium Gloucester Hotel & Conference Centre, London Kensington  
[www.clinicalinnovations.co.uk](http://www.clinicalinnovations.co.uk)

### Dental Sedation Teachers Group Annual Symposium 2012

Date: 22 May 2012  
Venue: St. Paul's Mecure Hotel, Sheffield  
Email: [sheelah.harrison@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:sheelah.harrison@sheffield.ac.uk)  
[www.dstg.co.uk](http://www.dstg.co.uk)

## THOUSANDS SPEAK UP ON CPD

Almost 6,000 General Dental Council (GDC) registrants have responded to a survey carried out as part of the GDC's review of its mandatory continuing professional development (CPD) scheme.

The GDC commissioned ERS: Research to undertake an online survey exploring what registrants think about CPD. The findings will contribute to the wider review that is taking a thorough look at the GDC's current CPD requirements.

The online survey was conducted with a random representative sample of GDC registrants and included questions about their perceptions and motivations for undertaking CPD.

The results are due to be published in early 2012. The GDC introduced compulsory CPD for dentists in

2002 and for dental care professionals (DCPs) in 2008. The current requirements for both registrant categories have been in place since 2008 and the GDC felt the time was right to undertake a review.

Any new CPD requirements will not be introduced before 2013.

'A modified approach to CPD will be a key step towards developing a workable, proportionate and cost-effective approach to revalidation in the future,' said Claire Herbert, Head of Revalidation at the GDC.

General comments about CPD can still be sent to [CPDReview@gdc-uk.org](mailto:CPDReview@gdc-uk.org).