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.

THE BULLIED

Bullying in orthodontic patients and its relationship to malocclusion, self-esteem and oral health-related quality of life

Seehra J, Padhraig S *et al. J Orthod* 2011; **38:** 247–256

Those who are bullied have an increased orthodontic need.

Is it an oversimplification to say that those with a less than ideal oro-dental appearance are bullied? After all, these victims may have 'low esteem, self-concept and a negative body image'. Could not these characteristics be at the heart of such abuse, with the sufferer hesitant to access services including orthodontic care? This cross-sectional study used data from adolescents referred for orthodontic assessment to three UK hospitals (only ca. 5% seen in one hospital). When compared to normative data, those who were bullied reported lower levels of 1) social competence, 2) athletic competence, 3) self-esteem, and 4) overall oral-health-related quality of life and Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need (both components). Yet these observations should be balanced with findings from a 20-year longitudinal study that found 'no negative association between malocclusion and social or psychological well-being.'

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2012.538

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF BEHAVIOURAL THERAPY?

Acceptability of behaviour therapy for dental phobia

Forbes M D L, Boyle C A *et al. Community Dent Oral Epidemiol* 2012; **40:** 1–7

Over one third of participants in this study felt they would never overcome their fear of dentistry.

In this study, 120 participants who had a history of extreme dental fear (Modified Dental Anxiety Scale >19) were asked among other questions, to displace their experiences and aspirations for future dental treatment, to another but fictitious person who was also a dental phobic. The vignette described a man named John, who was a primary school teacher and played football regularly. He avoided going to the dentist for the past ten years but eventually plucks up the courage to attend. The participants thought psychological support would be of little help to John, as ten of them had received such therapy but only one found it helpful. Nevertheless, they were not uncomfortable with this approach. They also considered that if intravenous sedation had previously been used, dental phobia would be difficult to overcome.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2012.540

A DIFFERENT ERA

The Tucker Technique: conservative molar inlays preserving the transverse ridge

Hess T A, Wadhwani C P K. *Oper Dent* 2012; **37:** 93–97

A mechanistic approach to treat an infectious disease.

The patient, who was a hygienist, 'requested the removal and replacement of her composites with cast-gold restorations utilizing the Tucker Technique'. Is this paternalism under the facade of autonomy? The pre-operative photograph and radiograph of the upper right first molar tooth showed both a small mesial and occlusal resin composite restoration. The tooth had an intact oblique ridge and described as 'of ample stock'. Both restorations appeared satisfactory. However, the adjacent tooth was restored by a composite that showed surface degradation, management of which was not discussed. Both inlay cavities were prepared predominantly in healthy tooth tissue and were finished with an array of chisels (Suter Dental, Chico, CA, USA – company now ceased trading). The gold inlays were of the highest standard and will no doubt last for ever, unless there is a perturbation in the microenvironment. Is this the end of a golden era?

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2012.539

GRIT SIZE

Effect of different grit sizes of diamond rotary instruments for tooth preparation on the retention and adaptation of complete coverage restorations

Li Y, Wang H *et al. J Prosthet Dent* 2012; **107:** 86–93

Less microleakage but no effect on the retention of full coverage crowns when preparations were finished with smaller grit size diamond burs.

This *in vitro* study carried out on 92 extracted premolar teeth, examined 1) microleakage between the preparation and casting, and 2) the retentive characteristic of nickel-chromium full-coverage crowns, following tooth preparation using burs with different diamond grit sizes. The number of teeth in each experimental group was small (n ≤8). The following bur grit sizes were examined: 125-150 µm, 106-124 µm, 53-63 µm and 20-30 µm. The burs were used sequentially starting with the most course grit size before proceeding onto those that were more fine. Castings were luted with glass ionomer cement. The use of smaller grit size diamonds burs was associated with less microleakage. However, grit size had no effect on the retention of full crowns.

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