

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.

POOR RESPONDERS

Azithromycin in periodontal treatment: more than an antibiotic

Hirsch R, Deng H *et al.* *J Periodont Res* 2012; **47**: 137–148

A 'profligate use' of antibiotics or the preferred treatment for those with 'low plaque scores and low responsiveness to periodontal therapy'.

Antibiotics used to treat those who have had a sub-optimal response to conventional periodontal therapies, can be associated with 1) poor compliance, 2) bacterial resistance to the antibiotic(s) and 3) in 40% of patients, side-effects from the antibiotics. Indeed the very use of antibiotics as an adjunct for the treatment of periodontal disease has recently been questioned, as it has been shown that similar outcomes were achieved with mechanical debridement and chlorhexidine. Macrolides, that include azithromycin, not only have antibiotic properties but also immune-modulating/anti-inflammatory effects. Such characteristics may be an explanation for the possible role of azithromycin in the treatment of cyclosporine-induced gingival overgrowth. In addition, azithromycin can penetrate biofilms and has a long antibacterial half-life, even after a single course of three tablets. DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2012.747

LOOKISM

Facial aesthetics and the assignment of personality traits before and after orthognathic surgery

Sinko K, Jagsch R *et al.* *Int J Oral Maxillofac Surg* 2012; **41**: 469–476

Even after orthognathic surgery, the facial aesthetics were still rated lower than control subjects who had not received surgery.

The facial aesthetics and ascribed personality traits, before and after orthognathic surgery in a selected group of 16 young female patients, were rated by volunteers. These scores were compared with eight control subjects who had a skeletal Class I pattern. Changes in hairstyle, among other factors, were excluded by computer manipulation. Following surgery, patients 'were rated significantly more beautiful, more pleasant, and more attractive', yet both facial aesthetics and ascribed personality traits were still scored lower compared with the control group. Pre-operatively, those patients with Class III profile were judged more 'aggressive', 'dominant' and 'less flexible' than those with Class II and Class I profiles. This study would refute 'Beauty is in the eye of the beholder' but concurs with the stereotypical view of some that 'what is beautiful is good'. DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2012.749

ORAL HOME CARE

Is self interdental cleaning associated with dental plaque levels, dental calculus, gingivitis and periodontal disease?

Crocombe LA, Brennan DS *et al.* *J Periodont Res* 2012; **47**: 188–197

No association between self interdental cleaning and clinical attachment loss.

Recommendations for oral hygiene should be evidence-based. Yet patients are cajoled into using dental floss, despite a fairly recent systematic review reporting that only 3 of 11 studies showed that such had an adjunctive effect on plaque indices and little if no effect on gingival inflammation when compared with tooth brushing alone. The research question asked by these investigators is more apposite. Is interdental cleaning associated with a reduction in clinical attachment loss? Standardised oral epidemiological examinations were carried out on 5,505 subjects selected from those recruited to the National Survey of Adult Oral Health 2004–06, an Australian cross-sectional survey. After adjusting for numerous covariates (explanatory variables), self interdental cleaning was associated with lower levels of dental plaque, dental calculus and gingivitis but not with a history of clinical attachment loss. DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2012.748

INTEGRATING HEALTHCARE

Patients' attitudes toward screening for medical conditions in a dental setting

Greenberg BL, Kantor ML *et al.* *J Public Health Dent* 2012; **72**: 28–35

Patients are comfortable with dentists screening for medical conditions although there were some concerns with confidentiality.

This study sought patients' attitudes towards receiving medical screening by dentists. The investigators used a convenience sample of 288 patients attending the New Jersey Dental School and 182 patients receiving care in two private dental practices. The majority of the patient respondents were happy for dentists to screen for hypertension and diabetes and to also test for HIV and hepatitis. Nevertheless, it was reported that there could be an issue with confidentiality. Despite patients being content for dentists to take on this enhanced role, other studies have reported dentists themselves have some reticence about screening patients for medical conditions. This was particularly for dentists who had qualified for over 20 years. DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2012.750