suggestion that composite is 'tricky' to place in these situations is an odd one bearing in mind that most practitioners would find bonding to the buccal surfaces of anterior teeth, isolated with cotton wool and gauze, relatively straightforward.

Dental Trauma UK have published a video on quick and easy splinting using wire and composite which can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/137957560>.

It is our opinion that primary care dentists have the necessary skills to effectively bond composite to tooth tissue. What they may lack is the experience and skills to diagnose and manage acute dental trauma. This was evident in the Kenny *et al.* study which revealed a need for appropriate postgraduate training in managing dental trauma in children; unfortunately this is likely to translate to an equal or possibly greater need in the adult patient.³ With this in mind we feel that a sensible way forward would be to introduce management of dental trauma as a core subject similar to medical emergencies. In this way dentists could be updated annually thereby going some way to improve their knowledge, skills and confidence.

Dental Trauma UK (www.dentaltrauma.co.uk) is a charity aiming to improve the management of dental trauma by raising awareness in the general public on what to do if a tooth is avulsed as well as educating dentists in the management of all of the other types of dental trauma.

S. Djemal, A. Alani, by email

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DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2016.158

WORKFORCE PLANNING

The specialist map

Sir, in 2014, I was working on a presentation and produced a prototype specialist map which was included in the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry's submission¹ to the Commons Health Committee inquiry into Children's Oral Health.² Graphs and tables are useful but maps give a unique perspective.

Using publicly available data from the GDC specialist's register and a modified postal area map, a 'UK Specialists in Paediatric Dentistry Map' was possible. A more recent version is shown in Figure 1.

Part-time and full-time specialists cannot be determined and some locations

are not the place of work. The percentage of administration and face-to-face clinical time cannot be determined nor can the proportion of private and NHS care. Population data are not superimposed. This prototype is rather crude but it is a start.

If the GDC modified their database slightly as well as requiring the main work address, both the profession and government may better estimate what specialists are doing and where in the NHS.

If all specialities were mapped and placed in specialist layers on a single map, different specialty distributions may be observed by digitally adding and subtracting layers. Mapping by the GDC of clinicians registered with them has significant potential and we could see dental therapist maps for example too. Mapping products may be of commercial interest giving the GDC another income stream.

R. W. Mills, Devizes

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2. House of Commons Health Committee. Oral evidence: Children's oral health, HC 1912. Tuesday 24 February 2015. Available at: <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/health-committee/childrens-oral-health/oral/18366.pdf> (accessed March 2016).

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2016.159

GDC Paediatric Specialist register	n = 234
UK	n = 227
England	n = 171
Scotland	n = 29
Wales	n = 13
Northern Ireland	n = 14
NB - postal areas can straddle national borders

Fig. 1 Specialist Paediatric Dentists in the UK in January 2016 according to postal region where registered. Squares represent each specialist and shaded areas have no GDC entry