

This page offers you the chance to open topics for debate, discuss issues, or even offer advice to fellow readers. Send us your views on anything published in *Vital* or anything to do with working in the dental industry to vitaeditorial@nature.com.

Isolated by their abusers...

I'm writing to congratulate you on your recent article on the role of dental practitioners in identifying domestic violence (*Vital* autumn 07 pages 26-28).

Unusual or repeat injuries to the face are a common indicator of domestic violence and something that only a dental professional would be able to notice. Many victims of domestic violence are isolated from the outside world by their abusers and a visit to the dentist could be one of the few opportunities a woman (or indeed a man) has to confide in someone and access help.

Refuge, the national domestic violence charity, can provide dental surgeries with posters, leaflets and wallet cards, which

contain details of where women can find help. **The wallet cards can be picked up discreetly** by a patient who is afraid to be discovered looking for help and leaflets can be provided in a wide range of different languages.

Refuge's website, www.refuge.org.uk, also contains a wide variety of advice and information for victims and practitioners.

To receive support materials for your surgery email janqui_mehta@refuge.org.uk.

Janqui Mehta
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Please SEND YOUR LETTERS to:

The Editor,
Vital, BDJ Editorial,
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or email vitaeditorial@nature.com

Write to us for our **spring 2008** issue and you could be the lucky winner of our **Star Letter** writer competition. You will then be the proud owner of a collection of the latest Colgate Oral Health Professional products (£100 RRP), courtesy of Colgate.



Letters may be edited for reasons of space. Opinions expressed in reader letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions or views of the editorial team or the publishers.

Competition winner – autumn issue

We are pleased to announce that **Miss Jo Relf** from Burwash in East Sussex was the first person to return her subscription form after the autumn issue was published. Jo wins a brightly coloured toy box from Admor for her dental surgery.

