Dental Review

Making Education Easy

Issue 19 - 2010

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Welcome to the first issue of 2010.

I have managed to get through this issue of the Review without mentioning nanotechnology, which is something of a feat with today's journals, but I am left wondering why dentists have smaller hands than teachers (item 10)? Perhaps this is something the admission committees of dental schools look at without telling us? Happy reading and best wishes,

Nick Chandler

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Aspirations and solutions - a 20 year journey through dental local anaesthetics

Authors: Meechan JG

Summary: This article is derived from a lecture and summarises some very interesting work on local anaesthesia by a team from Newcastle, UK. The researchers were the first to demonstrate that 4% articaine with adrenaline is more effective than 2% lignocaine and adrenaline. It reports on such things as systemic effects, discomfort and efficacy. Among the interesting findings is the fact that when infiltrating around mandibular incisors, splitting the dose buccally and lingually is more effective than either site in isolation. Another finding was the increased efficacy of pulpal anaesthesia of all the mandibular teeth when an articaine infiltration in the molar region supplemented a mandibular block.

Comment: The author starts by reminding us that these drugs are probably the most important ones in dentistry, and then provides an excellent overview of recent research on the topic. As well as the clinical investigations mentioned above, it reports laboratory studies of different syringe and cartridge types with special reference to aspiration.

Reference: Surgeon 2009;7(6):358-361

http://www.journals.elsevierhealth.com/periodicals/surge/article/PIIS1479666X09801108/abstract





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The effect of different concentrations of EDTA on instrumented root canal walls

Authors: Sen BH et al

Summary: This study used 40 extracted single-rooted teeth in a scanning electron microscope study to investigate how different EDTA concentrations varied in their ability to remove smear layer and erode dentine within root canals. EDTA concentrations from 1% to 15% were studied, and no significant difference in smear layer removal was observed.

Comment: Authorities recommend that EDTA is used with sodium hypochlorite to remove the smear layer, the final flush being NaOCI. The process may erode the root canal wall and dentinal tubule openings. This study is a useful review of irrigation and suggests that the commonly used 18% or 17% EDTA concentrations could be replaced by a 1% solution, which would be as effective clinically.

Reference: Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol Endod 2009;108(4):622-627

http://tinyurl.com/yghmqpq





Independent commentary by Associate Professor Nick Chandler of the Department of Oral Rehabilitation, University of Otago

Five years of sleep apnea treatment with a mandibular advancement device

Authors: Martínez-Gomis J et al

Summary: Forty patients with obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA) were followed up after provision of a mandibular advancement device (MAD) to provide 70% of the maximum protrusion. Temporomandibular disorders (TMD), overjet, overbite, occlusal contacts, adverse side effects and technical problems were recorded. Fifteen patients were still using their appliances at the end of the study. There was no significant variation in TMD problems, but significant reductions in overjet, overbite and occlusal contacts were noted. These were permanent changes in most patients in the first 2 years. There was also a considerable number of unscheduled dental visits each year because of acrylic breakage, poor retention and other problems.

Comment: MADs of several designs are commonly used to treat snoring and OSA. They are effective in improving breathing but have a declining acceptance rate over time. Interestingly, the reduction in posterior occlusal contacts tended to reverse between years 2 and 5, in agreement with another long-term study. The authors wonder if the adverse effects are due to wearing the appliance and/or having the jaw protruded for 6–8 hours each day.

Reference: Angle Orthod 2010;80(1):30-36

http://www.angle.org/doi/pdf/10.2319/030309-122.1?cookieSet=1

Evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of root canal treatment using conventional approaches versus replacement with an implant

Authors: Pennington MW et al

Summary: This paper uses a mathematical model of survival and outcome data to simulate the lifetime path of restorations done for a maxillary lateral incisor and compares these to an implant supported crown at this site. The costs are based on UK National Health Service fees. It found that root canal retreatment was cost effective but endodontic surgery was not cost effective in the model. If conventional root canal treatment fails, a single tooth implant in this scenario provided increased longevity at lower cost.

Comment: This paper joins a number published over the last few years comparing root canal treatment and restoration of a root-filled tooth with the provision of implants. Most find the treatments equally satisfactory. The starting point in the model was irreversible pulpitis in a lateral incisor, where no treatment or extraction would not be a realistic first option for many patients or dentists. Lateral incisors can be surprisingly difficult teeth to treat for a number of reasons. At a personal level I would recommend minimal heroism and a friendly implantologist for these teeth if they do not 'behave'.

Reference: Int Endod J 2009;42(10):874-883.

http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/122591566/abstract

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Dental Review

Rehabilitation with zygomatic implants: a treatment option for the atrophic edentulous maxilla – 9-year follow-up

Authors: Kuabara MR et al

Summary: This case report describes the management of a 46-year-old man with severe atrophy of the posterior maxilla. Under general anaesthesia, zygomatic implants were placed bilaterally together with four standard implants in the anterior maxilla. A definitive metal/resin fixed denture was placed one year later.

Comment: The authors list possible treatments for this patient as bone grafts from an external site prior to implant placement, a palatine approach, tilting implants or the zygomatic approach described. The patient's treatment is clearly a great success 9 years on. Today, it may be possible to immediately load implants of this type.

Reference: Quintessence Int 2010;41(1):9-12

http://qi.quintessenz.de/index.php?doc=abstract&abstractID=18096

Economic aspects of mandibular third molar surgery

Authors: Liedholm R et al

Summary: Six oral surgery clinics in southern Sweden collected data on 64 patients having mandibular third molars removed. Labour time, medical services and materials were recorded (on a single tooth basis) and a postal questionnaire of the participants identified indirect costs such as time off work and transport costs. The patient's loss of time, based on average labour costs, was more than that of the surgical intervention.

Comment: This paper is interesting in that it factors in some societal costs of dental care, including accessibility to the clinics. When the indications for removal of these teeth are weak, these other factors need further consideration. This was a small study and limited by the location of the clinics, but much of the data gathered was comparable to a study done in Wales.

Reference: Acta Odontol Scand 2010;68(1):43-48

http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/apl/sodo/2010/00000068/00000001/art00006

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Accessory mandibular foramina: Histological and immunohistochemical studies of their contents

Authors: Przystanska A et al

Summary: Twenty-one human cadavers were dissected to determine the contents of accessory foramina on the medial aspect of the mandibular symphysis. Neurovascular bundles were discovered, formed by branches of the mylohyoid nerve, sublingual artery and veins. Immunohistological tests confirmed the presence of nerve tissue.

Comment: These nerve fibres may provide accessory innervation for the anterior mandibular teeth and play a role in ineffective mandibular blocks (see the first study in this issue). Accessory foramina may also have a role in the spread of tumours, and their contents may be important as a cause of haemorrhage during implant placement.

Reference: Arch Oral Biol 2010;55(1):77-80

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Microbiological analysis after complete or partial removal of carious dentin in primary teeth: a randomized clinical trial

Authors: Lula ECO et al

Summary: Two groups of 16 deciduous teeth in 5–8-year-olds were involved in this experiment. In one tooth a dye assisted in complete caries removal, while in the other tooth caries remained on the cavity floor. Dentine was sampled from each tooth. Further samples were taken 3 to 6 months after placing calcium hydroxide linings and restoring with composite. The levels of bacterial colonisation in the two groups were similar for all the micro-organisms studied.

Comment: Even thorough caries removal is likely to leave behind some viable bacteria. Persistence of bacteria does not seem to be a reason to revisit carious lesions in cavities in deciduous teeth before providing a definitive restoration. This study supports a less invasive management of deeply carious deciduous teeth, especially when the risk of pulp exposure and the limited life of the teeth are considered.

Reference: Caries Res 2009;43:354-358

http://tinyurl.com/yd779ww



Dental Review is also made available to Dental Therapists through the kind support of the New Zealand Dental Therapists' Association

A retrospective clinical and radiographic study on healing of periradicular lesions in patients taking oral bisphosphonates

Authors: Hsiao A et al

Summary: Thirty-four teeth with periapical disease were studied in a group of patients who had been taking oral bisphosphonates for at least a year; a matching control group of 38 teeth in patients not taking the drug was also involved. All the teeth received conventional endodontic treatment, and there was no significant difference in healing rate or successful outcome at a minimum of 7 months' follow-up.

Comment: The oral complications of bisphosphonate-induced osteonecrosis of the jaws have been well reported recently in the dental literature. The authors regard this as a preliminary, short-term study to be interpreted with caution, but it suggests root canal treatment to be a safe and realistic alternative to extraction for these patients.

Reference: J Endod 2009;35(11):1525-1528

http://www.iendodon.com/article/S0099-2399%2809%2900650-5/abstract

Hand osteoarthritis and pinch grip strength among middle-aged female dentists and teachers

Authors: Ding H et al

Summary: Mechanical load has been suggested as a risk factor for osteoarthritis (OA) of the hand. This study involved 295 female dentists and 248 female teachers, recording their pinch grip strength and an analysis of hand radiographs. History of joint pain and glove size were answered in a questionnaire. The dentists had smaller hands than the teachers, and there was no difference in prevalence of hand OA between the groups. The results support the view that hand function is related to the severity of OA.

Comment: This publication follows an earlier paper in the Journal of Dental Research (2006;85:344-348) which showed that dental activities were related to OA in the joints of the thumb, index and middle fingers. These are regions where a high degree of muscular activity is involved in placing restorations, root filling and extracting teeth. Hand OA is a leading cause of disability as we age; we should be taking steps to avoid these monotonous work tasks!

Reference: Scand J Rheumatol 2010;39(1):84-87

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