

Dutchman stole patient data on a grand scale

All Austrians affected



For years stolen confidential data was sold on the dark net, including the Austrian civil register. Dutch investigators have now arrested a man, who has allegedly stolen and sold personal data of millions of people worldwide.

The 25-year-old Dutchman was arrested back in November following a tip-off from the Austrian Federal Criminal Police Agency. However, the case was not made public by the prosecutors' office in Amsterdam until January.

According to the information there is an urgent suspicion that the arrested has sold confidential data, including patient data from medical records for a long period of time. This is supposed to be data of persons from the Netherlands, Austria, Thailand, Columbia, China and the UK. In Austria all inhabitants are affected as the entire civil register was for sale. The operator of the register, the Federal Ministry of the Interior denied having been hacked. Thus, the Austrian Broadcasting Cooperation ORF subsidiary GIS (Gebühren Info Service—fee information service), which is responsible for collecting the broadcasting license fees and therefore has access to the entire civil register, has been suspected. The GIS stressed the ISO certification of all its IT systems and denied any omissions.

It has now become clear that the civil register originated from the GIS but has not been obtained through the GIS. As the ORF stated with reference to the Austrian Federal Criminal Police Agency, the GIS had given the entire civil register to an IT service provider who placed the data on a completely unprotected server.

Source: Heise online

One in five Swiss does not attend dentist

Lack of money causing insufficient dental care

According to the International Health Policy Survey 2020, 20.7 per cent of the Swiss population is not attending dental appointments out of financial reasons. The study included 2,248 persons from Switzerland and was submitted online or by phone. A representative sample of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office was used. For Katharina Prelicz-Huber, national council of the Swiss Green Liberal Party, it is an unacceptable condition. The Zurich national council is pursuing an attempt to establish that the costs for necessary dental treatment including regular check-ups and dental hygiene shall be covered by the mandatory health insurance through federal funds. Whereas national council Regine Sauter of the FDP liberal party argues that having the health insurance companies covering these costs would be the wrong approach. "This would result in an enormous cost increase as well as a further insurance premium rise." Currently social services are already covering such costs if somebody can provenly not pay for dental treatment. "The principle of giving everybody an equal share does not make sense. The general public should not be paying for somebody who is not in actual need. The risk of a further rise of payments increases if health insurance companies are covering everything."



Prof. Hendrik Meyer-Lückel, director of the clinic for dental preservation, preventive and pediatric dentistry at the University of Bern, emphasizes that sufficient oral hygiene is an important factor for dental and oral health. However, he also says: "Direct impacts on general diseases do not tend to be in the focus." Thus Prof. Meyer-Lückel does not see the necessity for basic insurance to cover dental treatment costs.

Source: ZWP online

UK News

Teacher provides student with toothbrush

Four out of five teachers in Great Britain are providing their students with tooth paste and toothbrushes, as due to the inflation they have no funds to buy such themselves. The British Dental Association (BDA) is revealing dramatic circumstances. In cooperation with the charity organisation Beauty Banks the BDA has questioned secondary school teachers throughout Great Britain. According to the BDA the study shows the students' "shocking situation in oral health". Thus 83 per cent of the questioned secondary school teachers admitted that their school is providing stu-



dents with tooth paste and toothbrushes. 81 per cent of the teachers stated that there are children at their school that have no access to toothpaste. 40 per cent detailed that it results in students socially excluding co-students due to poor dental hygiene. Half of the participants wrote that the kids isolate themselves. One third directly experienced mobbing in this context. Half of the students admitted to suffering from tooth decay.

"The poor economic situation and the problems in access to medications will inevitably lead to more patients rescheduling their treatments which will result in more expensive and more time-consuming therapies in the future," concludes the BDA. "We urgently have to start acting in order to reestablish treatment access and to eliminate obstacles. We will further pursue a reformed NHS dentist contract that sets a focus on prevention."

Source: *several*

Novel method helps distinguish

Imaging provides more insight

Scientists from Brazil have succeeded in distinguishing an ameloblastoma from an odontogenic kercocyst already in the imaging stage. The novel method differentiates oral bone lesions based on the image texture of MRT scans. Ameloblastomes and odontogenic kercocysts are benign tumors of the maxillary region with different biological characteristics. Ameloblastomes grow infiltrative and can also degenerate into malignancy over time. Kercocysts are aggressively growing but primarily benign unicystic or multicystic intraosseous neoplasms of odontogenic origin. Both however are in practice characterised by very similar morphological features and are hard to differentiate with common imaging techniques. Surgically they demand different procedures. Searching for a solution to predict the type of lesion early on and to facilitate surgical planning a team of scientists of the University Cruzeiro do Sul, University of São Paulo and the University of Campinas in Brazil in cooperation with colleagues from the University of Gothenburg in Sweden and Ankara University in Turkey has used an imaging technique called "texture analysis" on these lesions. The study sample included 18 patients, which have been diagnosed with one of the described lesions. In all cases the diagnosis was confirmed by biopsy. Eight subjects had ameloblastomes, ten kercocysts. MRT scans were used for the analysis. Eleven texture parameters were measured in five different distances, which resulted in 55 variables.

The variables "entropy" and "total average" proved to be of statistical significance. The first refers to the degree of disorder in between the pixels of the concerning image, whereas the latter indicates the sum average of two pixel values in the picture. Kercocysts show a higher regularity and a lower disturbance of gray scales than ameloblastomes. In three-dimensional imaging techniques like MRT and CAT scans the voxel [unit indicating volume in 3D space] and pixel are in a different order regarding distance and grayscales, which vary depending on the scanned tissue. "This data can be turned into numeric values—algorithms—in order to conduct a mathematical and statistical analysis," explains Prof. André Luiz Ferreira Costa, one of the authors. A fast diagnostic decision ensures higher planning security prior to surgery: "The most important achievement of this study is the possibility to faster obtain a definitive result through imaging and thus enabling an appropriate and safe treatment," adds Costa.

Source: *zm online*

Literature:

Gomes JPP, Ogawa CM, Silveira RV, Castellano G, De Rosa CS, Yasuda CL, Rocha AC, Hasseus B, Orhan K, Braz-Silva PH, Costa ALF. Magnetic resonance imaging texture analysis to differentiate ameloblastoma from odontogenic keratocyst. *Sci Rep.* 2022 Nov 21;12(1):20047. doi: 10.1038/s41598-022-20802-7. PMID: 36414657; PMCID: PMC9681845. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-022-20802-7>