

Global lab revenues projected to exceed US\$14.5 billion by 2015

Increasing demand for dental prosthesis and purchasing power of baby boom generation are main factors for market growth

Increasing numbers of elderly people and more demand for high-quality dental aesthetics are cited among rea-

sons for an increase in global demand for the services of dental laboratories. According to a new report, the world market for dental laboratories is projected to exceed US\$14.5 billion by the year 2015.

nessing a significant increase in demand for dental prosthetics as well as other restoratives. The report also cites the increasing purchasing power of the baby boom generation as another factor driving the dental laboratory market.

The scarcity of technicians and availability of modern restorative technologies and systems are driving dental laboratories to deliver quality dental restorations to dentists on time. Outsourcing is a key element in the U.S. dental laboratory industry.

Report, provides a comprehensive review of dental laboratories, market trends, recent industry activity, and focus on market participants. The study analyses market data and analytics in terms of value sales for regions, including The United States, Canada, Japan, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the rest of the world. ◀◀

The report, by Global Industry Analysts, a publisher of market research, states that dental laboratories are wit-

The United States represents the largest market for dental laboratories worldwide, according to the report.

The report, titled *Dental Laboratories: A Global Strategic Business*

Dental X-rays linked to cancer

Long-term exposure to increase risk by 200 per cent

A joint research team from Kuwait and the UK has reported a link between dental X-rays and increased numbers of thyroid cancer. After factoring X-rays taken of 300 patients in a hospital in Kuwait, they found that men and women who had had up to four dental X-rays were more than twice as likely to have developed the disease than those who had never had any dental X-rays. For those patients who had had between five and nine X-rays, their risk rose more than four-fold. Although thyroid cancer is one of the least deadliest cancers, incident rates have almost doubled in recent years.



(DTI/Photo Dmitry Shironosov)

The findings are consistent with previous reports of increased risk of thyroid cancer in dentists, dental assistants, technicians and X-ray workers, suggesting that sensitivity of the thyroid to radiation is not necessarily related to direct irradiation of that organ but to any exposure to ionizing radiation. Besides thyroid cancer, significant risks have been also observed for leukaemia and cancers of the breast.

The researchers warned that the results of their study "should be treated with caution" because the data was based on self-reporting by the participants and the fact that other factors could be contributing to the increase in thyroid cancer cases. Further research is required to confirm the exact effect of dental X-rays, the added.

"It is important that our study is repeated with information from dental records, including frequency of X-rays, age and dose at exposure," Dr Anjum Memon, Senior Lecturer and consultant in Public Health Medicine at Brighton and Sussex Medical School, who led the study, said. "If the results are confirmed, then the use of X-rays as a necessary part of evaluation for new patients, and routine periodic dental radiography, particularly for children and adolescents, will need to be reconsidered, as will a greater use of lead collar protection." ◀◀

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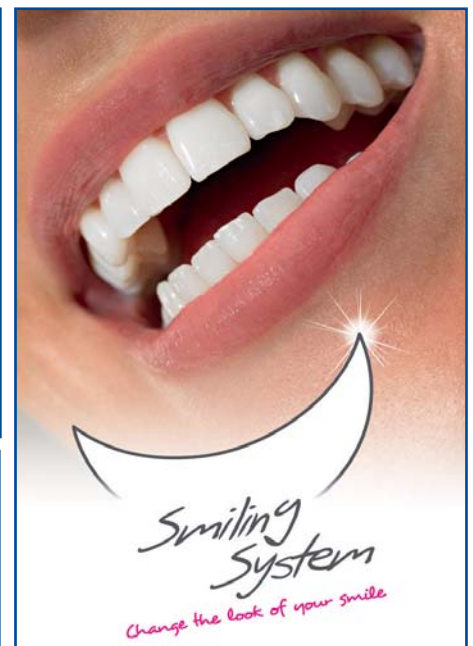
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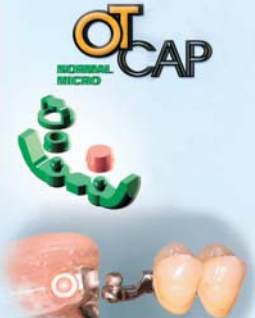
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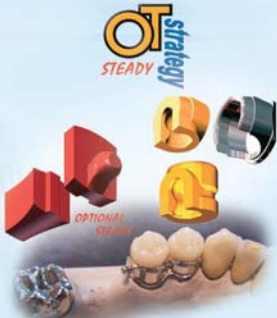


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