NEWS

Periodontal therapy may

Save patients over US $ 5,000 per year

A number of studies have linked periodontitis to systemic diseases, such as diabetes, and complications in pregnancy. Now, new research has provided additional evidence that receiving treatment for periodontal disease may result in reduced health care costs and fewer hospitalisations for pregnant patients and individuals with certain chronic conditions.

In the study, researchers at the University of Pennsylvania reviewed insurance claims data of almost 340,000 individuals who had been diagnosed with periodontitis and were either pregnant or had one of the following conditions: Type 2 diabetes, coronary artery disease, cerebrovascular disease and rheumatoid arthritis. They found that treating periodontal disease was associated with statistically significant decreases in annual medical costs of 40.2 per cent (US$2,840) for diabetes patients, 40.9 per cent (US$5,681) for patients with cerebrovascular disease, 10.7 per cent (US$1,090) for patients with coronary artery disease, and 73.7 per cent (US$2,433) for pregnant patients. In addition, a significant decrease in hospital admissions was observed in some of the groups. "These cost-based results provide new, independent, and potentially valuable evidence that simple, non-invasive periodontal therapy may improve health outcomes in pregnancy and other systemic conditions," the researchers concluded. The study, titled "Impact of Periodontal Therapy on General Health: Evidence from Insurance Data for Five Systemic Conditions," was published in the August issue of the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*.

[PICTURE: ©PRESSMASTER]

Cochrane reports no evidence for

Superior long-term success of dental implants

[PICTURE: ©IM PERFECT LAZYBONES]

Promising superior clinical outcomes, plenty of new dental implants are launched to markets each year. A report by researchers from the Cochrane Oral Health Group in Melbourne and Manchester has recently suggested that there may be no differences in terms of long-term success, regardless of the shape of the implant or the material used.

The researchers reviewed randomised clinic trials conducted around the world from the group's own database. From this, the only statistically significant difference observed was in relation to surface preparations, with smoother (turned) surfaces being found to be less prone to bone loss associated with periimplantitis than were rougher surfaces.

Similar results were reported by the group in a series of earlier reviews, of which the first was published in 2002. In the most recent update, two of the review authors independently compared 38 different implant types, which had been placed in 27 trials involving more than 1,500 patients, ranging from the early 1980s to early 2014.

According to Cochrane, there are more than 1,300 different dental implants available on the market today. The total value of fixed tooth replacements was estimated to be US$3.4 billion in 2011, a figure that some analysts expect to almost double in the next five years owing to the increasing demand of an ageing population and more dentists starting to place dental implants.

Straumann acquires

12 per cent of RODO Medical

Global dental implant manufacturer Straumann has announced that it has purchased about 12 per cent of RODO Medical's shares for an undisclosed sum. The U.S. company has developed a novel system that simplifies the implant restoration process significantly. RODO Medical's Smileloc System is a retention mechanism utilizing shape memory properties

straumann
simply doing more

of nitinol, a nickel-titanium alloy, which has been used in stents and other medical devices, including orthodontic archwires and endodontic files, for many years. It allows for easy fixation of crowns or dentures to implant abutments without the need for retaining screws or cement, the two main methods for securing restorations, the latter of which has been associated with complications. "Smileloc is an innovative concept," said Straumann's CEO Marco Gadola. "The first clinical results are promising and I agree with the developers that, when it becomes commercially available, it might substitute some of the current fixture technology."

Right in time for its anniversary

OT medical presents image film

Watch image film

Audio visual communication of companies gain greater importance more and more since motion pictures do trigger emotions and transmit compact information on short ways. The Bremer implant manufacturer OT medical is using the communication device image film to present the company in its anniversary year by means of a modern film.

Since five years now, the motto of the Bremen OT medical GmbH is „Innovative precision made in Germany". Constant research and development, quality control without compromises and modern manufacturing processes do convince practitioners worldwide. Thereby, attributes as customer-orientation, friendliness, good availability and short delivery times are as a matter of course to the implant manufacturer. Founded in 2008, OT medical has established itself as a successful newcomer in dental implantology and thus the company present itself with a new, pleasant image film.

Oftentimes, films do say more than thousand words and are more personal and authentic than a brochure. However, what is needed to create a successful image film is a good idea. With the screenplay for its current image film, the company had the right idea. To capture as much authenticity as possible, the film shooting was done during the ongoing daily business and thus connects the company's philosophy with professionalism and close customer proximity in a sympathetic manner. After two exhausting but great shooting days, all scenes are ready and the result is worth seeing…

Indian teenager has

Over 200 teeth extracted

[PICTURE: ©KORKUSUNG]

According to the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS), a private Indian news agency, Ashik Gavai, a Grade 10 pupil, was admitted to the hospital on 10 July complaining of pain and with an immense red swelling on the right side of his face.

After a series of tests and examinations, the doctors suggested that a complex composite odontoma, a benign odontogenic tumour, was causing the symptoms. During the subsequent 7-hour surgery, they found that the abnormal growth measured about 3.5 × 2 cm. The surgeons removed 232 teeth, with even more developing, from the tumour. As the numerous small teeth were difficult to count, the doctors believe that in total there may have been more than 350 teeth.

The doctors said that the boy had first noticed the swelling about a year and a half ago. However, high costs prevented him from seeking medical care and the tumour had grown unabated.

IANS reported that the boy's medical expenses were covered by Rajiv Gandhi Jeevandayee Arogya Yojana, a health scheme that ensures free care for low-income families, which was introduced by the Maharashtra government last year. Odontomas are usually asymptomatic and are often discovered during routine dental X-rays. Several factors, including local trauma, infection, family history and genetic mutation, may cause anomalous tissue development in odontomas.

Nobel Biocare sues Neodent USA for

Patent infringement

In a press release, Nobel Biocare stated: "In March 2014, Neodent USA launched its line of Drive CM dental implants in the US. In its complaint, Nobel Biocare alleges that these implants, imported from Brazil, have striking similarities to the design of the NobelActive implants which Nobel Biocare commercially launched in 2008. Further, Nobel Biocare asserts that Neodent USA has relied on Nobel Biocare's history of successful clinical data in marketing the Neodent product."

[PICTURE: ©ALEXSKOPJE]

According to the Swiss-based company, both US patents asserted in the lawsuit relate to technology for aiding the surgical installation and successful integration of the implants in a variety of patient bone types. Nobel Biocare has asked the court for an injunction barring sales of Neodent's infringing dental implants, payment of money damages due to Nobel Biocare's lost sales, and recovery of its attorney fees for the lawsuit.

In response to the allegations, Neodent USA said that it intends to defend itself vigorously against Nobel's allegations of patent infringement relating to one of its implant ranges. The company stated that, prior to launching Drive CM, Neodent obtained in-depth evaluations to ensure that its designs respected all valid intellectual property rights.

"The preliminary design of NobelActive was invented and developed by an Israeli team at AlphaBioTec Ltd—not originally by Nobel Biocare, as many people believe. We did our homework before launching our range of implants in the US, especially the Drive CM, and we are confident that we have not infringed any patents," said Tony Susino, CEO of Neodent USA.