
A double-blind randomized parallel trial is being conducted to evaluate the short-term clinical effects of local application of Minocycline strips in residual pockets of patients with periodontitis, who had received initial non-surgical periodontal therapy. The participants are 32 non-smoking, nonsystemically ill, non-institutionalized adults aged 18 to 75 years. The blinded part of the study took place on the first and third days, and the follow-up part took place at 1, 2, and 3 months. The bacterial counts, probing depths, and clinical attachment levels were measured. The data were analyzed using the paired samples t-test and repeated measures analysis of variance. The results showed a significant reduction in the plaque level and probing pocket depth in the group treated with Minocycline strips compared to the control group treated with placebo strips. The reduction in plaque level and probing pocket depth was significant at all time points. The results indicate that Minocycline strips are effective in reducing the bacterial counts and improving the clinical attachment levels in patients with periodontitis. The study was supported by the Faculty of Dentistry, The University of Hong Kong and Dong Kook Pharm. Co. Ltd.

19 The microbiological profile of asymptomatic root canal failures—preliminary results M.W.M. Ho, G.S.P. Cheung

This study is aimed at investigating the microbiological profile of root canal failures in the Hong Kong Chinese population. Eighty-six patients with root canals that had been endodontically treated for more than 3 years and with an acceptable coronal restoration but showed radiographic evidence of persistent lesions, were sampled. Bacteria, according to the classification of Miller (1988), were identified by the qualitative method described by Miller (1988). After removal of the root filling material, a sample was taken using sterile paper points and transport medium. This sample was used to inoculate trypticase soy agar (TSA) and selective media for incubation both in a carbon dioxide enriched atmosphere and anaerobically at 37°C. The bacterial colonies were counted after 48 to 72 hours and the percentages of each bacterial species were calculated. The results showed that the microbial profile of asymptomatic root canal failures in the Hong Kong Chinese population is similar to that reported in other studies.


This study aimed to investigate the knowledge and attitude of dental nurses regarding intraoral radiographs in Hong Kong. A total of 100 dental nurses were selected from four public hospitals in Hong Kong. The questionnaire consisted of 20 questions that assessed knowledge of radiographic techniques and 10 questions that assessed attitudes towards radiographs. The results showed that the majority of dental nurses had good knowledge of radiographic techniques, but their attitudes towards radiographs were mixed. The findings highlight the need for continued education and training to improve the quality of dental care in Hong Kong.

22 Development of an Oral Health Expectation Index for Elderly J.K.S. Liu, M.C.M. Wong, E.C.M. Lo (Faculty of Dentistry, The University of Hong Kong)

Oral health expectation is thought to be an important factor in explaining various oral health behaviour. A psychometric measurement of oral health expectation for elderly was developed and tested using the expectancy-value model in psychology. Nine oral health problems included in GOHAI (Atchison and Dolan, 1999) were selected for the construction of the Oral Health Expectation Index (OHEI) to estimate the subjective percentage of the elderly who know free of these problems. The OHEI score was calculated by adding up the nine percentages. Hence the higher the OHEI score, the higher the expectation on oral health. The OHEI score was satisfactorily high among the associations of oral health expectation, oral health status, single-item self-rated oral health, oral health function satisfaction, and perceived treatment needs. The OHEI can be used in further researches on dental health behaviour.