Cheddar cheeses are frequently recommended as snack foods which are safe for teeth. The aim of this study was to investigate the degree of mineralisation of dental hard tissues after exposure to four different cheddar cheeses using the intra-oral cariogenic test of Koulourides et al (1976). Four cheddar cheeses were used in this study: slices, block, spread and toasts. 10% sucrose and 10% sorbitol solutions were used as positive and negative controls respectively. Five adult volunteers with a DMFT score ≤ 2 were used to collect the enamel slabs for each cheese. A basic local microabrasion (SMH) test was performed for each enamel slab using a Knoop diamond with a 100μg load. Each volunteer was instructed to immerse the appliance in the test or control solutions for 10 mins four times daily for a period of five days. 10g of the test cheeses were chewed by the volunteers for 60 secs to obtain a cheese/saliva slurry which was used to cover the enamel slabs for the 10 mins immersion periods. SMH testing was repeated after the five day test periods. The mean % differences were calculated for each volunteer. The differences were expressed as ± standard deviation (SD) (control = 1 ±SD). After a month, the DMFT index and the percentage reduction in caries were calculated.

The aim of this study was to investigate the relationships between denture quality, denture wearing habits and patient satisfaction in Hong Kong. 216 elderly individuals (144 male, 147 female) aged 65-79 years (mean age 73.9) who possessed one or more partial or complete dentures were included in the study. 81 of these residents were of one of these homes for the aged. The other 67 were attended at home by the visiting team. A questionnaire was developed in consultation with the Reception and Primary Care Unit of the Prince Philip Dental Hospital, Hong Kong.

Participants were questioned about their denture wearing habits, their relationship with the dentists and the periods for which the dentures were worn. Using criteria adapted from previous authors (Rose 1978, Magnusson 1986, Vigil 1987) the dentures were examined with respect to their contours, retention, occlusal relationships, surface wear and presence of other defects. Overall, 52% were edentulous in one or other jaw. The remaining 82% had some teeth in both jaws. Although most patients (62%) expressed a complaint about their dentures, many of these had relatively serious defects, particularly with respect to retention. To avoid the possible overestimate of patient satisfaction, this work was not associated with the patients related to the dentures. However, when patient gender and age of the dentures were considered some significant relationships were found.

The longevity of dental air turbine handpiece bearings has been of concern for a long time, but with routine autoclaving now the norm the focus of this concern becomes a major selection criterion. A systematic method of testing for the integrity of bearings has been developed. The variables relevant to dental air turbine handpiece testing have been identified by Dyson & Darvell (1997). The measurement of these, however, requires various techniques and may be viewed as components in an elaborate and well-adapted assessment system. The bearing resistance and mean stall torque (to a precision of 0.001 mN) as well as continuous output of the instantaneous values are available. Rotational position is resolved to 1/50 turn, and mean running speed is displayed. Furthermore, the test is performed under standardized conditions for the equipment to undergo through the application of the procedure in a real service context. The equipment will have a variety of other applications in standards compliance testing, design development, and maintenance checks.

This work was supported by the University of Hong Kong CRCO grant nos. 335.250.0001 and 337.255.0002.

In Hong Kong, patients’ rights and responsibilities became more concerned in recent years. Different authorities have proposed their patients’ charters that were mainly related to the medical services. However, no related charter or guidelines has been made in dentistry. This research aimed to study the knowledge of the public on patients’ rights and the extent of the public in exercising their rights in dental services. A telephone survey was conducted with a structured questionnaire on Hong Kong Chinese aged 25-49 with dental experience. A total of 1626 calls were made, of which 408 were eligible and 401 questionnaires were completed. Results showed that 67% of the respondents knew at least 10 out of 14 rights. However, 65% of the respondents had not exercised any of the more the respondent knew about his/her rights, the more he/she exercised them. The ratio of the number of rights known and the number of rights exercised was around 1:3. A significant positive association was found between education level and the knowledge of patients’ rights. Regular visits had been opened simply and conveniently. Mainly, it had been increased by 1/3. Females of the handpieces were exercised more than males. The commonest reasons for not exercising the specific rights were “trust the dentist” and “dentist has done”. In conclusion, it found that the public was relatively satisfied with the services provided by dentists and further reinforcement in educating the public about the rights of accessing one’s own medical information, to receive quality dental care such as treatments with adequate pain control and to be informed of the alternative treatment options was necessary. Approximately one third of the patients, who were public knew had been exercised. This proportion was relatively constant no matter how many rights the respondents knew.