Dental Tribune International provides readers with dental articles that are both informative and authoritative. As the world’s first regular dental newspaper and in keeping with that ideal, we are now working with Dental Protection, the world’s biggest not-for-profit provider of dental indemnity and risk management, to create an exciting risk management feature that is being launched in this edition of Dental Tribune.

What Is Risk Management?
Most simply it can be defined as the identification and containment of anything harmful in a system or process. This is exactly the sort of strategy that is regularly used in industry, but which is equally valid in healthcare. When it is applied to dentistry, it can help to create more predictable treatment outcomes and also increased patient safety. In the process, the dental team will experience increased levels of satisfaction and far less complaints.

What Is Dental Protection?
This UK company operates in 70 countries worldwide to protect the professional reputation of 49,000 dentists, hygienists and therapists. Dental Protection is not an insurance company, it is a mutual organization owned by the members who subscribe on an annual basis. Dental Protection does not operate for profit; it is a commercial insurance company there are no shareholders in search of a dividend. In return for their subscription, members can ask Dental Protection to assist them whenever their professional integrity is challenged.

Smile Libraries
How can you best communicate to your patients the value of elective dentistry? By giving them a clear idea of what you can do by utilizing smile libraries and cosmetic imaging. Join Dr. L. Berland (USA) as he presents this approach.

In addition to dental malpractice indemnity, Dental Protection also provides general advice 24-hours a day. There is a team of 32 legal advisers and an international network of lawyers available to defend members against legal challenges arising from the practise of dentistry; including the payment of compensation to patients who may have suffered as a result of negligent dental treatment provided by a member. They try to prevent problems from arising by providing educational material and risk management training. If things do go wrong, then they protect the professional reputation and integrity of dentists and other members of the dental team by supporting them with the financial cost of any complaints and claims brought against them. This is made possible by a fund of over 1 billion US dollars that is held in trust for members.

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Licorice Root Compounds

Dental Tribune International
By Daniel Zimmermann

Compounds isolated from licorice root may help prevent cavities, according to research at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). In test tube studies the scientists showed that an extract from a plant root that is used to make licorice candy and other products contains at least two compounds that appear to be potent inhibitors of Streptococcus mutans, a major cause of dental caries. Their study appeared in the Feb. 24 print version of the Journal of Natural Products, a monthly peer-reviewed journal publication of the American Chemical Society and the American Society of Pharmacognosy.

Licorice has been an important herb in Chinese medicine for centuries and is now being rediscovered by Western medicine as a rich source of potentially beneficial compounds. In addition to being used as flavoring and sweetening agents in candy, tobaccos and beverages, compounds derived from licorice root have been shown to help fight inflammation, viruses, ulcers and even cancer.

More studies are needed before it is proven that the compounds effectively fight cavities in humans, says Ong Y. Lu, Ph.D., a chemist at UCLA’s School of Medicine, and Wenyuan Shi, Ph.D., a microbiologist at UCLA’s School of Dentistry. If further studies show promise, the licorice compounds could eventually be used as cavity-fighting components in mouthwash or toothpaste, they say.
What’s in the market for 3-D dental imaging?

**Dentist report on new computerized tomography systems**

**Cone beam computerized tomography (CBCT),** increasingly has become the newest technology for orthodontists to use in diagnosing complicated oral health problems.

Reporting on four new CBCT systems in the December issue of *Journal of Orthodontics* are: J. Martin Palomo and Mark Hans from the Department of Orthodontics at Case Western Reserve University; and Dr. B. Holly Broadbent (Case Director of the Bolton Study).

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