Gates urges rich countries not to cut health aid

** study claims**

**Australia low on dental workers**

**The Philippines aims for the improvement of oral health in schoolchildren**

**Gates was on a visit to India on behalf of his charitable foundation to tackle health issues, focusing on polio eradication and fighting HIV/AIDS.**

**BRUCE, Australia: Australia will be facing a shortfall of dental workers, a new report by the Australian Dental Association (ADA) said that the ageing population will put pressure on both public and private dental operators. Baby boomers grew up before the education programmes that saw an increase in dental health, and more tooth problems are expected to develop as they get older.**

**LEIPZIG, Germany: The Filipino government has recently launched a new programme to promote better oral health in the country’s public schools.**

**NEW DELHI, India: Microsoft founder Bill Gates is worried the global financial crisis could last two to three years, and might drive rich countries to cut back on spending on health aid for the developing world.**

**The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) states that the number of graduates from Australia’s dental training centres has been expected to double in the next six years, the report says between 800 and 900 more dental professionals will be needed to serve the expected number of visits.**

**NEW DELHI, India:** Gates was on a visit to India on behalf of his charitable foundation to tackle health issues, focusing on polio eradication and fighting HIV/AIDS. Meeting with Indian health officials and polio experts, Gates said he was confident polio could be successfully eradicated, with India leading the way. Gates called for increased government spending on health and urged Indian health officials to consider using innovative approaches, such as injection vaccines, to tackle the crippling disease. While a lot more expensive and trickier to administer, the injected IPV vaccine could be used in addition to oral vaccines to stop the spread of polio in high-risk areas.

**Oral vaccines have not proven to be as effective in India as elsewhere, a problem which some researchers suspect is down to poor sanitation and a higher presence of other diseases that stop the vaccine working properly. A world effort to beat polio has succeeded in slashing the number of cases by 99 per cent over the past two decades, but the disease is still endemic in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria.**

**Lapus also appealed to the country’s dental professionals to support the programme. Noting that Filipinos only visited a dentist as a last resort, he said, “As dental professionals, you can change that perception.” He described the programme as a “creative way to encourage student participation in a worthy project that addresses two important concerns of our time—oral health and environmental protection.”**

**Commenting on the lack of workers, the Australian Dental Association (ADA) said that the ageing population will put pressure on both public and private dental operators. Baby boomers grew up before the education programmes that saw an increase in dental health, and more tooth problems are expected to develop as they get older.**

**A world effort to beat polio has succeeded in slashing the number of cases by 99 per cent over the past two decades, but the disease is still endemic in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has contributed more than US$17 billion in grants since it began in 1994, and has given hundreds of millions of dollars in a global campaign to eradicate polio.**
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BEAUTY & BRAWN
Health official told patient safety, a Ministry of medical care and ensure patients will be connected via an online network by 2011 to improve the information system for the United Arab Emirates, hospitalization of Wareed, the new health system in the UAE.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—The implementation of Wareed, the new health information system for the United Arab Emirates, hospitals and clinics in the country will be connected via an online network by 2011 to improve medical care and ensure patient safety, a Ministry of Health official told Dental Tribune in November.

The network aims to exchange and access to medical and health information between patients and doctors as well as healthcare peers across the country. Patients can be treated in the most effective way by having access to their treatment results, updates and follow ups. They can also easily be transferred from one hospital to another within the UAE, even outside of the country thanks to specific agreements between the hospitals. The new system promises to avoid losing data, saving time and money, decreasing the waiting time for medical appointments but most importantly as the ability to provide international medical second opinion.

Although Wareed has a lot of advantages, it has some drawbacks. The main concerns are how to run the system in most efficient way and ensure patient safety while going through the process of implementing the customer centric data system. At the 5th annual Healthcare Expansion Congress Mid-East, organised by naseba, e-health application in the region, the importance of information at the point of care, patient safety and cancer management were the hottest issues discussed.

Patient safety is and should continue to be the most important consideration for delivering patient care while implementing the new system. A certain element of risk from human errors always remains but we should certainly be able to address avoidable and often costly mistakes, noted Raj Singh, healthcare solutions consultant EMEA, Hitachi Data Systems. “The reliability of IT health information systems coupled with advances in technologies such as R1D and Finger Vein Biometrics can help improve patient safety quite significantly. The most important consideration for improving patient safety still relies, however, on the healthcare providers who need to ensure they build out the best care practices with correct patient identification throughout their healthcare workflows and processes,” he added.

Saudi Arabia is the first country in the Middle East region, to have implemented the eICU programme, patented by VISICU, which combines early warning software and remote monitoring to connect off-site critical care physicians and nurses to ICU patients at all times. The eICU Program provides an alternative way to deliver high-quality critical care when specialist resources are limited. The eICU vision is to have centralised intensivist physicians & critical care nurses—round-the-clock in an eICU Center—to help bedside teams watch over their sickest patients and to prioritise and guide interventions.

The evidence is growing that eICU Programs are having a proven impact on saving lives, reducing complications as well as the length of patient stays, especially in the countries where people have limited and unequal resources in healthcare services.

Mohammed Abd Al Ahi, the head of Radiology from the Ministry of Health mentioned that the system of e-health facilitate will enable both patients and doctors across the country to make quick and well-informed decisions as well as ensuring the quality of treatment. At this point, training the staff on the new implementations, upgrading and maintaining the data base are vital factors for the sustainable safety of patients.

Some adult patients of all ages and all cleft types continue to have problems related to their cleft lip and/or palate and want intervention for those problems,” according to the authors. The most common problem is persistent nasal deformity. Other issues include problems related to hearing, speech, teeth, and social life, plus concerns about social skills and social withdrawal.

The study examined patients who have been treated at adult multidisciplinary cleft clinics in the West Midlands in the UK since June 2000. The researchers reviewed the number and nature of the patients’ problems and the types of treatment they required in 2004. A total of 145 patients were seen in the adult cleft clinic. Of these, 55 patients attended as part of their continuing care. Ninety were newly referred as adults to the cleft service. Patients ranged in age from 15 to 70 years and, on average, had three clinical problems each.

“Intervention for the patients reviewed in this study included varied types of surgery, dental rehabilitation, psychological assessment and support, and speech assessment and therapy,” the authors said. The variety of interventions indicates that “the problems of adults with cleft lip and/or palate may be changing,” according to the authors.

“Our study supports the need for a specialist multidisciplinary cleft clinic to provide continuing care for patients who have a history of cleft lip and/or palate,” they added.
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Men drive cosmetic trends in the UK

Penny Palmer
DT United Kingdom

LONDON, UK: According to the British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (BACD), more and more men are opting for cosmetic dental treatment. Men, who used to account for 28 per cent of all veneers, now account for nearly a third of all procedures. Similarly, men used to account for less than a fifth of all orthodontics. They now represent almost a quarter, with 400 cases this year.

Bridges are another procedure that has become more popular with men, who used to account for 42 per cent and now are edging ever closer to women at 46 per cent. Overall, orthodontics (which includes both visible ‘train track’ as well as invisible and removable braces) has boomed in popularity, with the number of cases more than tripling since 2006.

Women are still the big spenders on cosmetic dentistry, accounting for 61 per cent of all procedures. Women also still account for the majority of whitening procedures.

The top five procedures for men in 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White fillings (back teeth)</td>
<td>12,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crowns-Implants-Onlays</td>
<td>11,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veneers</td>
<td>4,568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White fillings (front teeth)</td>
<td>5,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitening</td>
<td>1,764</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry

Stem cells from monkey teeth stimulate growth of brain cells

According to Dr James Goodnik, dentist and BACD board member, “These results show that men have become more accepting of cosmetic treatments in general—reflecting the importance we now place on a healthy smile. The advent of new procedures, such as the removable adult braces and more realistic-looking veneers, which require much less drilling, also means people are less likely to choose invasive and irreversible treatments.”

Dr David Bloom, dentist and president of the BACD, added, “This audit has highlighted some very exciting trends, such as an impressive increase in the number of orthodontic cases. This could well be a backlash against the dramatic smile ‘overhauls’ popularised in makeover shows but may also herald a more subtle and less invasive and irreversible treatments.

Dental stem cells are part of adult stem cells, one of the two major divisions of stem cell research. Adult stem cells have the ability to form many different types of cells, promising great therapeutic potential, especially for diseases such as Huntington’s and Parkinson’s diseases. Already, dental pulp stem cells have been used for regeneration of dental and oral tissues.

Dr Anthony Chan, DVM, PhD, and his team of researchers placed dental pulp stem cells from the teeth of a rhesus macaque into the hippocampal areas of mice. The dental pulp stem cells stimulated growth of new neuronal cells, and many of the new neuronal cells formed neurons. “By showing dental pulp stem cells are capable of growing cells that produce fat, cartilage and bone, our study demonstrates the specific therapeutic potential of dental pulp stem cells and the broader potential for adult stem cells,” said Chan.

Because dental pulp stem cells can be isolated from anyone at any age during a visit to the dentist, Chan is interested in the possibility of dental pulp stem cell banking. “Being able to use your own stem cells for therapies would greatly decrease the risk of cell rejection that we now experience in transplant medicine,” said Chan.

Chan and his research team next plan to determine if dental pulp stem cells from monkeys with Huntington’s disease can enhance brain cell development in the same way dental pulp stem cells from healthy monkeys do.

Oral bacteria bring in the taste

Scientists in Switzerland have reported that bacteria in the human mouth play a role in creating the distinctive flavours of certain foods. They have found that these bacteria actually produce odours from odourless components of food, allowing people to savour fruits and vegetables fully.

In the study, published in the recent issue of the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, author Christian Starkenmann and colleagues have argued that some fruits and vegetables release characteristic odours only after being swallowed. In order to prove this, sensory tests were performed on 50 panelists, to evaluate the odour intensity of odourless sulphur compounds and the volatile sulphur compounds—known as thiols—that are released from the odourless compounds, which are found naturally in grapes, onions, and bell peppers. Participants instantly perceived the aroma of the thiols, but took 20 to 30 seconds to perceive the sent of the odourless sulphur compounds.

While scientists have previously reported that volatile compounds produced from precursor odourless compounds found in certain foods are responsible for this ‘retroaromatic’ effect, the details of this transformation were not fully understood. The authors conclude that it is the mouth bacteria’s ability to free thiols that helps modulate long-lasting flavours.