Newcastle, UK: The poorest people in society have eight fewer teeth than the richest, one of the largest studies of its type ever undertaken has found. The research, a collaboration between Newcastle University, the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, University College London (UCL) and the UK National Centre for Social Research, showed that oral health is substantially worse among the poorest 20 per cent of society compared with the most wealthy.

For those over 65 years old, the least well off averaged eight fewer teeth than the richest—a quarter of a full set of teeth.

More than 8,000 people aged 21 and over from all income groups and regions of the UK, excluding Scotland, were involved in the study, which was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and used data from the recent UK Adult Dental Health Survey. Those with lower income, higher deprivation and lower educational attainment, and in a lower occupational class generally had the worst clinical outcomes, including increased tooth decay, periodontal disease, and dairymen, as well as fewer teeth overall.

Despite these social differences, oral health is improving and the oral health of young British adults overall is much better than it used to be. However, previously published research by the same team showed that, while the youth had much healthier mouths than their predecessors, when asked how good or bad their own oral health was and how it affected them, the social divisions between rich and poor were evident, and even more pronounced than in older people. The poorest young people were very aware of their poor health and much more likely than the wealthiest to rate their oral health as poor or say that it affected their day-to-day life.

**Mix of reasons for poor oral health**

Prof. Jimmy Steele, CBE, Head of the School of Dental Sciences, said: "The poorest young people suffering financial struggles have significantly less teeth than their affluent peers." (DTI/Photo Camelia Varsescu)

**Society’s poorest have eight fewer teeth**

According to a report, rising demand for treatment and awareness about hygiene will prompt dental clinics and practices to adopt more stringent cross-contamination control procedures. This will drive growth in the dental infection control products market, which is projected to reach US$4 billion by 2020.

No trouble with tooth loss

A study from Australia has indicated that tooth loss does not necessarily interfere with a patient’s quality of life provided he or she still has a certain number and type of teeth. The findings may have important implications for public dental health system around the world in allocating dental prostheses.

**No trouble with tooth loss**

**Saliva test for Ebola under development**

In collaboration with two US scientific institutions, Ceres Nanosciences, a biotechnology company specializing in diagnostic products, is planning to develop a new method to detect the presence of the Ebola virus in saliva. Since current methods for diagnosing Ebola rely on blood samples, the four-month project aims to find a more effective and noninvasive alternative.

Ceres has developed and commercialized a novel nanoparticle technology, called NanoTrap, which is suitable for a wide range of diagnostic applications and sample-handling needs. The technology could also be used to address the need for better testing methods for Ebola, scientists believe.

**Hygiene market thrives**

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**Hygiene market thrives**

Milk consumption traced to teeth

An international team of researchers has discovered the first evidence of milk consumption in the ancient dental calculus of humans in Europe and western Asia. The team found direct evidence of milk consumption preserved in human dental plaque from the Bronze Age to the present day.

According to the scientists from the universities in Oklahoma, USA, York, London and Copenhagen, the study will have far-reaching implications for understanding the relationship between human diet and evolution as it provides direct evidence that the milk of all three major dairy livestock—cattle, sheep and goats—has been consumed by human populations for at least 5,000 years. It also corroborates previous evidence for milk fat identification on pottery and cooking utensils in early farming communities.

The discovery of milk proteins in human dental calculus will allow scientists to unite these lines of evidence and compare the genetic traits and cultural behaviours of specific individuals who lived thousands of years ago.

**Milk consumption traced to teeth**

**Saliva test for Ebola under development**

**Hygiene market thrives**

**Milk consumption traced to teeth**
EQUIA: A NEW WAY OF THINKING, A NEW WAY TO TREAT
José Ignacio Zalba Elizari
12.00 PM (EST)

As Carl Sagan said, science is more than just a body of knowledge. It is a way of thinking. Changing the way we think we have been changing the way we make our restorations from a 1st stage where dentistry has prioritized the mechanical properties of the material, a 2nd stage where high aesthetic sought to enter the 3rd stage where the maximum value is the protection of the tooth, to do a biomaterial with an appropriate balance between aesthetic and mechanical properties of the solution: EQUIA.

Learning objective:
Changing the way we think of restorative dentistry in order to integrate in our daily practice EQUIA Knowing the advantages of EQUIA system from more traditional materials for this alternative.

Advantage Program and AIG Insurance Company.

Findings and conclusions of this quantitative and qualitative study will be discussed. Risk management suggestions for product names or claims, or statements made by advertisers. Diplomas exposed by authors are their own and may not reflect those of Dental Tribune International.

LEARNED FROM CLOSED CLAIMS
THE DENTAL PRACTICE: LESSONS
Mark Buczko
08:00 PM (EST)

This webinar will provide an overview of the 5 year study of professional liability claims recently published by Dentist’s Advantage Program and AIG Insurance Company.

Participants will learn:
• How to correlate select qualitative results of the client survey with the quantitative data of the claim analysis
• To identify the top 5 procedures that lead to a high frequency and/or severity of claims
• How to correlate select qualitative results of the client survey with the quantitative data of the claim analysis

Future plans for multimillion-dollar dental clinic in Adelaide receive green light

ADelaide, Australia: Access to public dental care in South Australia still ranks among the lowest in the country. A new dental clinic to be established as part of the University of Adelaide’s overall reconstruction plans for the clinic building could help to improve the situation. They were recently approved by the Government of South Australia.

The University of South Australia had also submitted a proposal for the partnership, which was put out to tender by the state government in June. The University of Adelaide’s new dental clinic will have 90 dental chairs and help to develop improved dental services to the public, a spokesperson said. She added that the reconstruction will cost the university over A$58 million (US$88.8 million). The expansion fits into the government’s oral health plan to improve access to health care services in the state until 2017.

Once established, the clinic will replace all dental care services currently offered at the school.

According to Vice-Chancellor and President Prof. Warren Bebbington, the university is changing its current clinical care model to provide an enhanced year-round service with students placed in the clinic for 48 weeks a year. Moreover, two scholarships will be set up under the partnership to encourage students to take up work in rural areas. Better employment opportunities in outlaying locations will also be provided.

South Australia Minister for Health Jack Snelling commented that the plans will further facilitate the university’s position as a national leader in dental education and research.

“The clinic will provide state-of-the-art dental facilities where students can complete their training alongside skilled dental experts, and the public can access high-quality dental care,” he said. “The new deal also ensures we’re using public dental health care resources in the most effective way and providing a sustainable dental workforce for South Australia in the future.”

The University of Adelaide has South Australia’s only dental school. Founded in 1920, it offers a Bachelor of Dental Surgery and a Bachelor of Oral Health. Currently, 500 undergraduate students are enrolled in these programmes, according to the university.
New study finds link between tooth loss and atherosclerosis

KYOTO, Japan: Japanese researchers have investigated the association between tooth loss, as an indicator of oral disease, and arterial stiffness, as a marker of atherosclerosis, in Japanese adults. They found that a relationship indeed exists between the two diseases. However, the severity of atherosclerosis varied between male and female patients with oral conditions.

Although a number of studies have suggested that oral disease is a risk factor for cardiovascular disease, the mechanism underlying the association between the two remains controversial.

Therefore, researchers at Kyusyu University collected data from 8,124 individuals aged 30–75 with a history of inflammation-induced tooth loss.

Comprehensive dental examination and evaluation of arterial stiffness in the participants found that the relationship between the degree of arterial stiffness and tooth loss was dependent on sex, with only men showing a positive correlation.

According to the World Health Organization, severe periodontal disease, which may result in tooth loss, is found in 50–75 per cent of middle-aged adults worldwide. Cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death globally.

The organisation estimates that by 2050 more than 25 million people will die annually from cardiovascular disease.

The study, titled “Tooth loss and atherosclerosis: The Nagahama Study”, was published online in the Journal of Dental Research, published by the International Association for Dental Research, on 18 November ahead of print.

Inequalities in oral health require urgent action

Dr John Wildman, Professor of Health Economics at Newcastle University Business School, the principal investigator on the Economic and Social Research Council study, said: “It’s probably not a big surprise that poorer people have worse dental health than the richest, but the surprise is just how big the differences can be and how it affects people. Eight teeth less on average is a huge amount and will have had a big impact for these people. From our data it is hard to say which specific factors are driving each of the differences we are seeing here, but there is probably a real mix of reasons and it is not just about, for example, the availability of treatment.”

“Although the younger generation have much better oral health than their parents ever did, the differences between rich and poor are very considerable and young people are particularly aware when they do not have a healthy mouth. The risk is that as health gets better overall the differences just get greater and poorer people lose out.”

Dr Georgios Tsakos, senior lecturer at the Research Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at UCL, added: “In terms of the younger adults, we showed that it is not only being poor that affects their perceptions about their oral health and quality of life, but educational attainment can also make a major difference. This has profound implications for policy, as intervening in earlier life could have a significant long-term effect on oral health.”

Inequalities in oral health require urgent action

Dr John Wildman, Professor of Health Economics at Newcastle University Business School, the principal investigator on the Economic and Social Research Council study, said: “Inequalities in oral health have not received the attention that they deserve. Our study is an attempt to redress this balance. Oral health contributes hugely to everyday wellbeing and addressing these inequalities may result in considerable improvements in quality of life for large numbers of individuals.”

Prof. Richard Watt, Head of the Research Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at UCL, commented on the important policy implications of this research: “Inequalities in oral health require urgent action by organisations such as Public Health England—in particular more needs to be done to tackle the underlying causes of oral diseases such as sugary diets.”

New study finds link between tooth loss and atherosclerosis

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