Assistant Professor and the Head of Growth and Development department in the college of Dentistry, Ajman University of Science and Technology, Dr. Raghad Hashim, added another milestone to her logbook of achievements by winning the first prize of His Highness Sheikh Rashid Bin Humaid Scientific Award for the Distinguished Medical Research in the GCC. Her research focused on dental trauma management among young children in the Emirate of Ajman.

Dr. Raghad has confirmed that this award has imposed its cultural level of the region and buoyed with a series of valued studies and research which has worked to bridge the apparent gap in the provision of dental care.

Dental X-rays linked to brain tumors: US study

People who get regular dental X-rays are more likely to suffer a common type of brain tumor, US researchers said on Tuesday, suggesting that yearly exams may not be best for most patients.

The study in the US journal Cancer showed people diagnosed with meningioma who reported having a yearly bitewing exam were 1.4 times to 1.9 times as likely as a healthy control group to have developed such tumors.

A bitewing exam involves an X-ray film being held in place by a tab between the teeth.

Also, people who reported getting a yearly panoramic exam – in which an X-ray is taken outside the mouth and shows all the teeth on one film -- were 2.7 to three times more likely to develop cancer, said the study.

A meningioma is a tumor that forms in the membrane around the brain or spinal cord. Most of the time these tumors are benign and slow growing, but they can lead to disability or life-threatening conditions.

The research, led by Elizabeth Claus of the Yale University School of Medicine, was based on data from 1,433 US patients who were diagnosed with the tumors between the ages of ages 20-79.

For comparison, researchers consulted data from a control group of 1,350 individuals who had similar characteristics but had not been diagnosed with a meningioma. Dental patients today are exposed to lower radiation levels than they were in the past, but the research should prompt dentists and patients to re-examine when and why dental X-rays are given, said Claus.

“The study presents an ideal opportunity in public health to increase awareness regarding the optimal use of dental X-rays, which unlike many risk factors is modifiable,” she said.

The American Dental Association’s guidelines call for children to get one X-ray every one to two years; teens to have one every 1.5 to three years, and adults every two to three years.

The ADA said in 2006 there was little evidence to back up the routine use of full-mouth dental X-rays in patients without any symptoms.
The survey of more than 1,000 people aimed to determine which oral health problems are generally considered the least desirable to one’s appearance. Missing teeth was considered to be the least desirable problem by 57 per cent of respondents, and stained teeth turned off nearly one in five respondents (18 per cent).

Surprisingly, only six per cent of the respondents were most put off by braces, and only two per cent of people thought fillings were the least desirable feature.

Opinions were also sought on cracked teeth, uneven teeth and receding gums, problems that put off a combined total of roughly one in five respondents (18 per cent).

According to Dr Nigel Carter, Chief Executive of the BDHF, the findings do not come as a great surprise: “Images portrayed in the media of celebrities have led to a society where image and the way we look is an important facet of daily life. Young people particularly associate celebrities with attractiveness, achievement and affluence, so it is only natural they will seek to mimic what they see on TV and in print. ... Celebrity smiles can be particularly endearing, so it is little wonder survey results indicate missing and stained teeth are the least desirable oral health issues for the way you look.”
Implant failure may be related to bisphosphonate use

NEW YORK CITY, NY, USA: The results of a study conducted at the New York University College of Dentistry seem to confirm the hypothesis that the use of oral bisphosphonate is connected to dental implant failure. In the case-control study, more than 500 middle-aged female patients with failed dental implants were compared with women from the same age group whose implants were still intact.

Clinical evaluations at the Department of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry were conducted between 1997 and late 2004. According to the researchers, the clinical data gathered from these examinations showed that in women whose implants had failed the odds of having taken bisphosphonate orally were almost three times higher. Dental implant failure related to the use of oral bisphosphonate also seemed to be more likely to occur in the maxilla.

Neither the quantity nor the duration of bisphosphonate use was evaluated.

Although the risk of implant failure is low, the researchers concluded that oral bisphosphonate could pose a risk to the success of dental implant therapy and should be prescribed with caution.

Earlier research on the association remains ambiguous, as results from Sweden and Australia have not found increased risks for implant failure when bisphosphonate was taken by patients before or after implant placement.

However, the majority of clinical organisations still recommend that long-term users stop taking bisphosphonate before undergoing dental implant procedures to avoid complications.

Teeth equally perceived by dentists

BERLIN, Germany: Several morphometric studies have proven sexual dimorphisms in human teeth, for example that women’s teeth are smaller than men’s teeth. The German Society for Sex-Specific Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery recently reported on a study that found no obvious differences between male and female teeth.

Headed by Prof. Ralf J. Radlanski from the Centre for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Benjamin Franklin Campus of Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, the researchers explored whether the sex of an individual could be identified if only the front teeth were considered. This was tested by having participants evaluate 50 images of the anterior oral region of men and women aged between seven and 75. The lip area was not shown.

The participants included dentists, dental technicians, dental students and dental professionals, as well as 50 people who had no professional dental background.

The results overall demonstrated that sex could be detected in only about 50 per cent of the images. Although there are anthropological studies that claim to prove measurable morphometric differences, the study proved that those are not even visible to experts’ eyes.

While some tooth positions were correctly assigned by 70 per cent of the participants, others were wrongly assigned by the same number of participants. The assumption that women tend to have rounded teeth and men rather angular ones could not be confirmed by the study. Furthermore, contrary to what was expected by many of the participants, shape, size and colour of the canines were not meaningful indicators of sex.

“In everyday practice, it is relevant whether the restoration fits the patient’s face but not whether the patient is male or female,” Radlanski said. “Recognisable typical male teeth or female teeth do not exist.”

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