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Paradiagmshift in pediatric dental caries management

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Pediatric dental caries will require a paradigm shift in the way dental professionals approach prevention and management of the disease. Prevention of dental caries has relied upon parental and patient cooperation and significant life style changes that are at best difficult to implement and maintain or at worst ignored. The paradigm shift in pediatric dental caries management demands that clinicians redirect their energies and emphasis from the “surgical” approach to dental caries to a “medical” strategy and appropriateness of therapeutic intervention including use of antimicrobials to reduce caries producing-bacteria. This revolution in how dentists approach the problem will require the development of non-surgical strategies as well as bio-chemical approaches on the essentials of the paradigm shift.

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The significance of bio-high performance polymers in dentistry

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“Bio-High Performance Polymers” or Bio-HPPs are the polymeric compounds which are not soluble in water, do not have the tendency to react with other materials, seem to be highly compatible in the body and oral cavity, and have the least possible side effects. They are also considered as “Thermo-plastic HPPs”, and have been used in medicine for over 30 years; for instance as spinal implants and hip-joint prostheses. Their excellent bio-compatibility within the body and with other tissues has made them the material of choice in medicinal surgery. In dentistry, for the last 15 years, zirconium dioxide has been used as a replacement for metal-based prostheses and in digital technologies; however, the use of ZrO₂ needs special training, equipment, soft and hardware systems. Bio-HPPs, which are mainly based on PEEK (poly-ether-ether-ketone), in comparison with other metal-based systems and dental ceramics, are simple to use and have shown to be quite light. When compared with metals, they show much more elasticity; and in comparison with ceramics, they exhibit easier processing. They are also highly aesthetic and possess high polishability. Owing to not reacting with other materials, they induce less plaque accumulation. Their high strength and ability to tolerate heat have made them a brilliant material for crown and bridge prostheses and/or any other treatments regarding the crown of the tooth and the missing teeth. As a result of the above, they can also be used in implant dentistry, manufacturing a number of orthodontic appliances and designing other types of tooth restorations.

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The role of anxiety traits/state in the modulation of dental patient anxiety among adult patients

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The purpose of this study were to determine how the use of STAI aid in finding out the relationship among Saudi dental patient's dental anxiety levels and other factors including age, sex, type of treatment, frequency of visits and dentists' degree. One-hundred ninety-eight randomly selected Saudi patients attending out-patient dental clinics at three main governmental hospitals in Riyadh City participated in the study. There were 198 subjects; 81 (40.9%) males and 117 (59.1%) females. The mean age was 28.01 years, and age range was 18-58 years. Gender was significantly related to anxiety at $p > 0.001$. Females were more anxious than males. Males were significantly less anxious than women when treated by the specialist or consultant. It is concluded that STAI is an effective method of determining the anxiety levels of participants, by the use of which dental anxiety was considered to be sex-related. Males exhibited lower anxiety when treated by a higher professional rank. Age, frequency and type of dental visits did not have a major role among anxious Saudi patients.

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