

Number 1: Orthodontics in general practice

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The aim of orthodontics is to achieve proper functioning of the teeth and to optimise aesthetics. For years now, braces have been worn by one in three young people. Nowadays, an increasing number of adults are also finding their way to an orthodontist: an adult with braces is no longer considered strange. For attractive teeth are important, and they will last you your whole life! Dentists play an important role in identifying orthodontic problems. And, this is true here as well: 'you see what you know'. In the last 15 years, orthodontic views have changed significantly. For example, the paradigm: 'wait until you get all your adult teeth' is seriously outdated. The various orthodontic treatment options have also expanded. As such, procedures involving braces can be carried out more quickly.

Number 2: Oral care for the elderly, a challenge

Publication date: 29 November 2010

Closing date for advertisements: 2 November 2010

People are not only living longer, they are living independently longer, too. There is a growing group of patients who have their finances in order and a lot of time on their hands. Most of these people still have their natural teeth, but as they grow older, they may encounter certain problems associated with ageing. In addition, people aged 30 to 50 have and will continue to have better oral health than in the past, thanks to the major improvements in oral care that have taken place over the last few decades. To an increasing extent, oral care professionals will have to move their focus towards this group in need of care. That requires attention for both healthy/independent and sick/dependent older people.

Number 3: Regeneration, augmentation and healing of oral tissues

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Dentistry is making increasing use of the regeneration capacity of tissues to 'heal' defects or to improve functionality and appearance. Dentists refer patients to periodontists, oral surgeons or dental implant specialists for expert treatment that makes use of regeneration-promoting methods to improve the health of the periodontium or to perform a sinus lift, bone augmentation procedure or complicated correctional oral surgery.

Number 4: Medication in dentistry

Publication date: 7 March 2011 Closing date for advertisements: 8 February 2011

Medication usage in dentistry has two aspects. On the one hand, medications are used in the context of dental procedures, for healthy patients and for medically compromised patients. On the other, there are medications that are used by dentistry patients in connection with a medical problem and which must be taken into account by the dentist. In addition to the use of painkillers, antibiotics and anaesthetics, attention is paid to anti-coagulation, osteonecrosis, corticosteroids and bisphosphanates. Attention will also be focused on cooperation with physicians and medical care institutions.

Number 5: Evidence-based dentistry

Publication date: 2 May 2011 Closing date for advertisements: 5 April 2011

Nowadays, dentists no longer perform procedures because their colleagues do, or because that is what they were taught in school. Modern dentists are aware that they must closely follow the developments in their professional field and that they should carefully scrutinise new materials, new techniques, and also their own performance. Because of the Internet, patients now have access to information that is often very up to date, but certainly not always accurate. It is virtually impossible to remain fully aware of the entire scope of dentistry while also maintaining a busy practice. How should dentists deal with this, and what resources are available to serve them?

Number 6: The enterprising dentist

Publication date: 10 June 2011 Closing date for advertisements: 10 May 2011

A dental practice is increasingly seen as a business. More than in the past, patients find themselves in a setting where several people are involved in a treatment. However, that does not mean that dental practices are actually operated as a business. While insurance companies seem to be forcing dentists to adopt modern administrative practices, and it is no longer strange that dentists distinguish themselves from the 'competition' (for example, by advertising), there is much to be improved in the average practice's business operations. Transparency is a must in this situation, not only for larger practices, but for solo practitioners as well. Furthermore, in both small and large businesses, the attention paid to cooperation, modern communication, cost effectiveness and personal well-being are important pillars that can simplify and improve the dentists' professional life.