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Media Use for Professional Information Among German Dentists

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OBJECTIVES: The purpose of the study was to assess the media use for professional information among German dentists on the basis of a representative survey.

METHODS: After questionnaire development and pretests, 3000 questionnaires were mailed to German dentists in early October 2000. The random sample was taken by systematic sampling from the database of the German Federal Dentists Chamber. The survey was announced in a German Dental Journal (*Zahnärztliche Mitteilungen*).

RESULTS: The return rate amounted to 28.9% (n=866). Among the questioned dentists, 39.7% had an Internet access in their workplace / practice, 61.4% a private access at home. 46% used the Internet not at all as a source of information. 21.3% for up to an hour a week and 10.2% for more than an hour a week. The importance of the Internet as a source of information is given as high by 30.5% of respondents, 49.1% said its importance was average and 15.3% saw it as low, 5.1% didn't answer this question. The preference for mediation of scientific information were given as shown in the table below (percentage of high importance):

Journal-supplements 74%,

Mail 63%,

Advanced education 55%,

Internet 40%,

E-mail 33%,

Modules in the practice software 20%.

CONCLUSION: With a rather low return-rate, this study has only an explorative character. Although a high availability of the Internet in the private area was present, the possibilities of electronic procurement of information were used only cautiously. For the supply of overview works or statements, conventional means such as the post or publication in journals are preferred over electronic media.

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Oromandibular Dysfunction Among Dental Students

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The aim of the study was to determine frequency of oromandibular dysfunction among dental students. A total of 186 second and third year students (131 women and 55 men) aged 19-31 years (M=23) were examined, using the Gerber System instrumental technique. Oromandibular dysfunction was diagnosed according to IHS and AAOP criteria. T-TH was found in 58% of students, occlusal parafunction in 58%, non-occlusal parafunction in 84%. Tooth numbness occurred in 20% of subjects, masticatory muscle soreness on palpation in 28%, muscle hypertrophy in 14%. TMJ acoustic sounds were noticed in 55% of students, TMJ pain in 31%, limited mandibular movement while opening the mouth in 37%. All students examined had premature occlusal contacts, they were asymmetric in 98%. Oromandibular dysfunction was diagnosed in 79%, 21% of which had 6 or more dysfunction signs and symptoms, 19% had only one or two of them. The Eysenck personality questionnaire, additionally used in the study, revealed different types of personalities among students. Conclusion: Oromandibular dysfunction symptoms were observed in most of students. They should be associated with school induced stress and not with the personality type of the subjects examined.

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Regenerative Dentistry - A Preliminary Study on Tooth Germs of the Mouse

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OBJECTIVES: One of the most important bases in regenerative dentistry is the understanding of cell differentiation of the tooth germ. The preliminary study comprises the following: 1. micropreparation of tooth germs of the mouse and 2. cell examination after different periods of defined cell cultivation.