

# PRESS RELEASE



For immediate release: Thursday, 10 December 2009

## **BOOST IN DEMAND FOR IMPLANTS RAISES FEARS OVER TRAINING, WARNS MDDUS**

Dentists must beware of the dangers of providing dental implants without suitable training and mentoring, warns the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland (MDDUS).

The gold standard for the replacement of a missing tooth is by using a dental implant. If suitable, this prevents the preparation of adjacent teeth for bridges which may reduce their longevity, or the wearing of a partial denture.

Recent research by iData Research, the worldwide consulting group, shows that demand for implants remains high internationally and any effects of the economic recession on demand will be felt less in Europe.

The three most important factors in implant placement success are the patient, the implant type used and the operator.

Indeed, it is widely accepted that the success is solely limited to the ability of the operator - both in patient assessment and care provided - as technology has produced materials that are generally successful.

But with the boost in demand for implants, MDDUS cautions that dentists may be tempted to provide such treatment without proper training.

Aubrey Craig, head of dental division of the UK-wide MDDUS warns: "As demand increases practitioners contemplating provision of this type of treatment must have suitable training and mentoring.

"Attending a weekend course at an airport hotel may give a taster of what is involved but in no way provides sufficient learning for any individual".

Craig adds: "Year long courses are widely available as well as university and faculty accredited diplomas, delivered by experienced practitioners who can also provide mentoring. This is vital when the dentist first begins to provide this treatment in their own practices.

"Dentists must also ensure that their indemnity is 'adequate and appropriate' as defined by the General Dental Council."

The General Dental Council supports the Training Standards in Implant Dentistry, published by the Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK).

The GDC expects education providers, and dentists who wish to practise implant dentistry, to refer to these standards as the authoritative source of training standards for implant dentistry for dentists in the UK.

A copy of this document can be found on the FGDP website:  
[www.fgdp.ork.uk/pdf/training\\_stds\\_imp\\_dent\\_guide\\_2008.pdf](http://www.fgdp.ork.uk/pdf/training_stds_imp_dent_guide_2008.pdf)

Ends

For further information contact Colin Calder on 0141 616 2677 or 07850 510881.

**Note to editors**

MDDUS is a medical and dental defence organisation providing access to professional indemnity and expert medico- and dento-legal advice for doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals throughout the UK. For further information on MDDUS go to [www.mddus.com](http://www.mddus.com).