Survey shows number of UK adults seeking orthodontic treatment remains high

By Dental Tribune UK

A new survey has found that UK adults are increasingly likely to opt for orthodontic treatment. (Photograph: Phoenixns/Shutterstock)

LONDON, UK: Though orthodontic treatment was once thought to be something only for teenagers, its generally non-invasive nature has led to it becoming something that adult patients increasingly request. A new survey of orthodontists by the British Orthodontic Society (BOS) has confirmed this, as an increase in adult private patients was reported by 75% of the respondents.

The survey, conducted last month among BOS members, was designed to gather new data about orthodontics and patient choices in the UK. The results revealed that adult patients are more likely to be female, in the 26–55 years age range, and primarily treated with fixed orthodontic appliances with clear aesthetic brackets or with clear aligners.

According to the BOS, 60% of the respondents said that the increase in their number of adult private patients was due to a heightened awareness of adult orthodontic options. More than 10% of orthodontists added that celebrities and bloggers can influence their adult patients.

Dr Peter McCallum, BOS Director of External Relations, commented: “It is interesting to see the number of adults interested in orthodontic treatment remains high. Our members, specialists and dentists with a special interest, offer a range of options for adults, enabling them to provide a solution to any kind of orthodontic problem. The value of informed choice cannot be overstated.”

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USC researchers seek to understand craniofacial abnormalities

By DTI

LOS ANGELES, U.S.: Most birth defects involve the face and skull and scientists are still unable to explain this phenomenon. The University of Southern California (USC) has recently received a substantial grant for a project that is aimed at collecting data, DNA samples and images related to abnormalities of the head and facial bones. The research data will help gain a better understanding of the issue and foster interdisciplinary collaboration between medical experts.

Orofacial clefts are fairly common birth defects. If the cleft extends through the upper gingiva, it may affect tooth development. The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research awarded the USC Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry and the USC Viterbi School of Engineering a $12.5 million grant for their project Facelab III Data Management and Integration Hub. The project will connect experts who have thorough knowledge and expertise in the area, and its aim is to help improve treatment outcomes.

“To accelerate the science and better serve families at risk for these conditions, we need a comprehensive and systematic understanding of how faces form in healthy children and what goes wrong to cause common malformations,” said Dr Yang Chai, George and MaryLou Boone Professor of Craniofacial Molecular Biology, Director of the Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology and Associate Dean of Research at the dental school.

The Facelab project consists of three phases. The first phase was launched in 2009 and focused on the middle region of the face, which includes the nose and mouth, and examined genetic developmental disorders. The second phase started in 2014 and focused on the expansion of the database to include other genetic disorders and on the development of the craniofacial complex. The third and final phase seeks to effectively organize data collection and storage and encourage researchers to share their findings.

“We’re trying to create a community of researchers around the exchange and organization of data, and transform the way craniofacial research is done,” said Prof. Carl Kesselman, Dean’s Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering, and Preventive Medicine at the USC. The University of Southern California (USC) has recently received a substantial grant for their research project. (Photograph: Rungruedee/Shutterstock)

Researchers from the University of Southern California’s dentistry and engineering schools have recently received financial support for their research project. (Photograph: Rungruedee/Shutterstock)