Market report forecasts extensive growth of Korean implants in AP

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TORONTO, Canada: Dental implants produced in the Republic of Korea have gained significant market shares in recent years. Now a report by the Millennium Research Group (MRG) in Canada has predicted that manufacturers from that country could dominate dental implant markets in the Asia Pacific region as early as 2016 owing to their price advantage.

Implants from Korea are also catching up in terms of clinical data, the report states, a fact that will make them increasingly adaptable for implant specialists in the region.

The total regional market for dental implants is expected to exceed US$800 million by 2016 with the key driving market being Australia, which was historically underdeveloped and is now expected to grow by 10 per cent annually, according to MRG.

Japan, the largest national market in the region, will experience slower revenues despite an overall rise in implant procedures.

Alongside Germany and Israel, South Korea currently has one of the highest rates of dental implants per capita worldwide. This market saturation has recently forced many manufacturers to pursue sales markets overseas. While exports to Western countries have remained relatively slow, Korean manufacturers like OSSSTEM already rival established implant providers, such as Straumann or Zimmer Dental, in Asian countries like Pakistan, Malaysia or Hong Kong.

Other significant market players in the region include DIO Implants, a company partly owned by DENTSPLY, as well as MegaGen and Shinshung.

Research suggests old folks should clean teeth

Dental Tribune Asia Pacific

TAIPEI, Taiwan: Data analysis of patients with public health insurance in Taiwan has backed up the claim that oral health and heart disease might be associated later in life. People over the age of 50 who had received at least one tooth scaling showed slightly lower incidence of myocardial infarction, other cardiovascular events and strokes than those who had received none, according to a paper recently published in the American Journal of Medicine.

In the study, which took seven years to complete, the records of more than 22,000 patients selected from the country's National Health Insurance Research Database were analysed.

According to the researchers at the Taipei Veterans General Hospital and National Yang-Ming University's Cardiovascular Research Center, the results made public this month revealed less heart disease in those people who had had their teeth cleaned.

The incidence of stroke was 1.1 per cent higher among those whose teeth had not been cleaned, and acute myocardial infarction occurred in only 0.6 per cent more people who had not undergone tooth scaling.

Lead researcher Dr Zu-Yin Chen told Reuters Health in London that the results, although convincing, did not prove that better oral hygiene can lower the risk of heart disease but that dental problems like gum disease most likely increase the risk of these conditions.

Chen said that the new study followed research that suggested there might be a link between heart disease and oral health.

The association itself and the way in which bacterial inflammation in the mouth contributes to heart disease is still highly debated in the dental community.