A new test for gum disease

Ahmed Khocht, DDS, an associate professor of periodontology at Temple University’s Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry, led a team that studied the efficacy of a colored strip to detect gum disease by changing color in response to the levels of microbial sulfur compounds found in saliva. The strip changes from white to yellow, and the darker the shade of yellow the more severe the gum disease.

Khocht and his team looked at 75 patients divided into three groups — those with gingivitis, those with periodontal disease, and those that were healthy.

A color chart formed the basis of scoring for the changes in the color strip, and were compared to scores for traditional assessments such as attachment levels, bleeding on probing, gingival index and plaque index.

Using a color strip would be quicker, and easier than using those traditional assessment methods, and would cause no pain to the patient.

Given that 80 percent of adults have some form of periodontal or gum disease, a quick and painless method to identify the disease would save the dental practice time and money as well. A growing number of research studies show the links between gum disease and blood infections, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, low birth-weight babies and obesity. Thus, early detection of periodontal or gum disease is paramount to a patient’s overall health.

(Original Source: Temple University, www.temple.edu)

OSAP offers resources for dentists to help prevent spread of swine flu

Researchers from New York University presented their findings about white wine and tooth staining during the recent International Association for Dental Research annual meeting in Miami, which took place April 1–4.

Using two sets of cow teeth, study results showed that soaking the teeth in white wine for one hour before exposure to black tea produced significantly darker stains than when the teeth were soaked in water for one hour prior to exposure to black tea.

(Original Source: New York University, www.nyu.edu)

White wine can increase tooth staining

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The Organization for Safety and Asepsis Procedures (OSAP) is providing special online resources to help dental professionals protect themselves and their patients from swine flu. The Swine Flu Resources section of the OSAP Web site, www.osap.org, includes an overview of the disease, up-to-the-minute reports on the current outbreak and tips for prevention. The site is being updated as new information is received.

(Original Source: OSAP)

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