Medical experts are urging dentists and physicists to work closer together in a bid to improve and understand patient health.

The news follows the latest clinical evidence from a new report which examines the association between periodontitis and systemic conditions.

A UK group of cardiology, endocrinology and periodontologists found a potential link between periodontitis and an increased likelihood of CVD.

They also discovered that periodontitis increases even more severe in subjects with diabetes mellitus - a group already at increased risk for cardiovascular events.

The potential impact of periodontal disease on general health represents the first time a broad group of UK experts has convened to explore the growing body of research into this important area.

On reading the report Dr Tony Jenner, deputy chief dental officer for England, said: "The Department of Health (DoH) launched Delivering Better Oral Health—an evidence based toolkit for prevention in September 2007. This document intended for use throughout dental care and is merely 'bringing them into line' with their one million other business customers as well as arrangements at other banks.

ADA mystery

The executive director of the American Dental Association (ADA) Dr James Bramson has left his post in a hurry to get a replacement. The bank said it is merely ‘bringing them into line’ with their one million other business customers as well as arrangements at other banks.

Banking fees

Royal Bank of Scotland Business account holders, including dentists, are to pay fees of £1 per transaction at the end of June 2. The bank said it is merely ‘bringing them into line’ with their one million other business customers as well as arrangements at other banks.

Leeds outreach

Chief dental officer, Barry Cocksfoot, has opened the first dental outreach teaching unit in Leeds at inside a community health centre. Students qualifying as dentists, dental nurses or dental hygiene therapists will train to get "Special care community dental services are also provided in an adjoining unit, allowing a wide range of dental care to be offered.

It is important that the whole dental team, as well as other healthcare workers, give consistent messages and that those messages are up to date and correct. This literature review does however identify a lack of prospective studies at this point in time linking periodontal disease with CVD and until such studies have taken place we should be cautious in attributing a causal effect.

Dr Ray Williams, a USA periodontist, at the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry and lead author of the report, said: "The promotion of good oral health, as part of better overall health care should be seen as a natural extension of current healthy lifestyle messages around diet, exercise and the cessation of smoking, which are designed to help reduce the burden of CVD and diabetes."

Periodontitis has attracted much interest as a potential risk factor not only for cardiovascular disease (CVD) and diabetes, but also for its association with adverse pregnancy outcomes, respiratory disease, kidney disease and certain cancers.

The interaction of oral health and general health has been recognised in the dental profession for a long time, but doctors especially those in general practice do not recognise the link.

This could change with a recent expert report published in Current Medical Research and Opinion, which examined the potential link between oral hygiene, associated gum disease and other systemic diseases involving inflammatory processes such as CVD and diabetes.

The authors conclude that both doctors and dentists are encouraged in the report to educate patients on the importance of maintaining a healthy mouth for the sake of their general health.