The luxurious Pennyhill Park Hotel and Spa in Sur-}
rey was the setting for a
daylong symposium to mark the
UK launch of Septodont’s new
product, Biodentine last month.

More than 80 key opinion
leaders and leading dentists
from across the country came to
hear how this cutting edge tech-
ology, which, for the first time,
offers a bioactive substitute to
dentine, could revolutionise
t heir practice.

The symposium began with
general manager of Septodont
Holding Olivier Schillier intro-
ducing Biodentine as the prod-
uct of a love story and a 12-year
development into a dentine
replacement set to change the
face of restorative dentistry. Prof
Trevor Burke was next to the
podium. Acting as chair for the
day’s proceedings, Trevor set the
scene by discussing the change
in thinking in caries manage-
m ent towards a more minimally
invasive procedure where only
a percentage of the caries is re-
moved then a suitable material
is used to seal in the remaining
caries. He posed a question for
delegates to ponder as they lis-
tened to the day’s speakers: Can
one solution be a substitute for
all restorative materials, ie MTA
and amalgam?

Next to speak was Prof Gilles
Richard, who is R&D manager
for Septodont France and the
developer of Biodentine. Prof
Richard’s presentation, From
Scientific Concept to Clinical
Use, detailed the origins of Bi-
odentine and the journey it took
from conception to launch as a
commercial product.

He explained that the goal to
developing the product was to be
able to treat many pathologies
with a single solution. Bioden-
tine began as an idea in 1998
when a dentist and a material
developer contacted Septodont
with the concept. Prof Richard
then detailed the next 12 years
as a whirlwind of development,
testing and industrialisation
before the present situation of
launching Biodentine to market.

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Prof Richard then went
into detail about the composi-
tion of the product. He explained
that it was an active biosilicate
technology composed of tri-
calcium silicate. This is mixed
with water to create the correct
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Following him was Prof
Pierre Colon, Head of Endo-
dontics at Paris University. In
his presentation Biodentine:
a material worth discovering,
he reviewed some of the clini-
cal lab-based studies that had
been undertaken. I must ad-
mit to his presentation being
something akin to an advanced
chemistry lesson for me with
the amount of chemical for-
mulae he showed, but his aim
was to explain how Biodentine
worked at a chemical level. He
described the chemical reac-
tion between the powder and

Biodentine: a typical love story

Dental Tribune looks at the UK launch of Biodentine, Septodont’s new dental ma-
terial, which took the form of a one-day symposium

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water as similar to that of concrete and many comparisons in the studies he described were made to other materials (for example, ProRoot MTA).

After a fantastic lunch (with the amount of food available, I can see why the venue is the base for the England Rugby team for matches!) it was time to hear more about the use of Biodentine in practice. Prof Tim Watson, director of research at King's College London Dental Institute and Head of Biomaterials Science and the Biomaterials, Biomimetics & Biophotonics Research Group, discussed Biodentine: the new dynamic, bioactive, interface with the dental tissues. He explained that he had been working with the product for about 10 months, and was interested how biomimetic it was especially in the field of restorative dentistry and caries management.

He looked at how Biodentine interfaced with the natural tooth surface as it settled into the mouth after placement. He explained that there was some form of remineralisation that can be seen. In addition, the product lays down good reactionary dentine when reacting with the pulp. His main message said: ‘it will work with caries – so get using it!’

Next up was Prof Gilles Kouhi from the University of Marseilles. His presentation, Biodentine: a universal material: clinical applications and clinical cases, was a very entertaining look at some of the cases where he had used the product during trials between 2005-2010. Some of the indications where he had used Biodentine included:

- **Direct Composite Restoration** – Prof Kouhi explained how after using it as a dentine substitute in this case, the restoration fractured at 16 months and he re-re-stored it by leaving the Biodentine where it was and putting new composite around.
- **Direct Pulp Capping**
- **Perforation Filling**
- **Inlays and Onlays**

Prof Kouhi presented many cases where Biodentine had been used; always reminding the audience that at the time it was still very experimental and sometimes he may have used it just to see what it could do.

After a short break it was time for Dean of Liverpool Dental School, Prof Callum Youngson, to discuss Integrating Biodentine into undergraduate training. He put into context what was happening at undergraduate level and why introducing products such as Biodentine into the curriculum made sense; especially as the move towards minimally invasive dentistry at all levels meant clinicians were looking for solutions that ticked all the boxes of efficacy, compatibility and conservation of tooth structure. Prof Youngson stated that he could see the product having a place in teaching clinics around restorative and primary care.

He questioned why it should not be used at undergraduate level, after all, he said, what you learn at undergraduate level is what you are competent at. The fact that the product is technique insensitive and has a long setting time is a bonus for students who have no preconceptions about what to use, which gives a great learning platform.

The last clinical speaker, Dr Julian Webber, looked at the use of Biodentine in a specific discipline – endodontics. He began Biodentine, an Endodontic Perspective by detailing his six-month experience in using the product. He gave a very honest appraisal of Biodentine, discussing the advantages of a longer setting time of 10 minutes being beneficial to endodontists, but also that the fact that it is very dependent on how it is mixed was a potential problem. He showed some cases which he had used the product on and gave many practical hints and tips on using it in endo.

General manager for Septodont Ltd UK, Mike Cann, closed the symposium by highlighting that Septodont was not just a leader in dental anaesthetics but also in dental materials. Commenting that the symposium marked the launch of Biodentine in the UK, he said: “We are delighted to share the unique advantages of Biodentine™ with so many distinguished experts from the UK and overseas.”

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