Men drive cosmetic trends

Men more and more men are opting for cosmetic dental treatment, according to the British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry.

Men who used to account for 28 per cent of all veneers, now account for nearly a third of all procedures, according to an audit of cosmetic dental work done in 2007 by the British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (BACD).

Similarly men used to account for less than 10 per cent of orthodontics. They now represent almost a quarter with 400 cases this year.

Bridges are another procedure which has become more popular with men, who used to account for 42 per cent and now edging ever closer to women at 46 per cent.

Overall orthodontics (which include both visible ‘train track’ braces as well as invisible and removable) has boomed in popularity, more than tripling since 2006.

Women are still the big spenders on cosmetic dentistry, accounting for 61 per cent of all procedures.

Women also still account for the majority of whitening procedures.

NHS registration increase

The number of patients who are registered with an NHS dentist in Scotland has reached the highest level since records began.

Official statistics reveal that 72.6 per cent of adults were registered with an NHS dentist this summer.

For children, this is a 12 per cent increase on last June, and for adults a rise of 19 per cent.

Scotland’s public health minister, Shona Robison said: ‘This is the highest number of registrations since recording of NHS dental registrations was introduced in October 1990.

She added: ‘The figures are a further demonstration of our determination to bring NHS dentistry within reach of as many people as possible.

However the figures also revealed that in some areas registrations were considerably lower.

In NHS Grampian, just 58.3 per cent of residents were registered with a health service practice, compared to 70.7 per cent in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

Ms Robison added: ‘There are still parts of Scotland where registrations are unacceptably low and I will expect all NHS boards to continue putting plans in place to further improve access for their populations.

More than 2.2m examinations were carried out by NHS Scotland dentists in 2007-08 - an increase of just under 6,000 on the previous year.

GDC forms new links

The General Dental Council has entered into a new specialist training partnership with the Joint Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry.

The partnership between the two organisations is ‘vital in ensuring that specialist training continues to meet the GDC’s standards for specialist listing and clarifies the respective roles and responsibilities of the General Dental Council (GDC) and the members of the Joint Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry (JCSTD),’ according to a spokesperson for the GDC.

Goodbye Mr Rose

A dentist who specialises in treating children and young patients with disabilities is at last hanging up his drill and retiring.

Dr David Rose, 64, has worked at the Violet Hill House health centre at Stowmarket in Suffolk since 1974.

He has cared for thousands of patients through the decades and concentrates on treating patients with disabilities, who often struggle to find a dentist, because of their physical disabilities or the strong medications they take.

Dr Rose said he ‘will miss’ being a dentist and added: ‘My emotions are very mixed and part of me wants to stay, part wants to go.’

Dr Simon Rudland, a GP at the health centre, said: ‘He will be hugely missed.’