

News

Dentists to increase their focus on tooth erosion

The European Federation of Conservative Dentistry (EFCDD) has urged the dental community to increase its focus on erosive tooth wear.

The EFCDD has also declared it a challenge requiring co-operation with other healthcare professionals, according to a recently published consensus report (Carvalho et al, 2015).

The Federation further concluded that effective management includes screening for early signs of tooth erosion and evaluating all aetiological factors, including eating and drinking habits, nutritional supplements, reflux, vomiting and medications.

Rapid tooth wear

Speaking about this consensus, Professor Andrew Eder, a specialist in restorative dentistry and prosthodontics, and clinical director of the London Tooth Wear Centre, commented: 'With people living longer, we need to work with our patients now to ensure their oral health does not let them down and one area that urgently needs our attention is that of erosive tooth wear.'

'The Adult Dental Health Survey teaches us that more than three-quarters of dentate adults show some tooth wear in their anterior teeth, while the increase in moderate tooth wear in 16-34 year olds is of clinical relevance as it is suggestive of rapid

tooth wear.

'In my view, tooth wear is going to increase in our patients in the years to come.

'Poor drink choices, eating disorders like bulimia and an increased need for medication as a result of people living for longer, as well as other factors, are all going to contribute to tooth wear.

'So we as dental professionals need to keep an eye out for the tell-tale indications, take preventive action when we spot the initial signs, and make sure our patients understand that they need to make sensible choices if they want to keep their teeth for a lifetime.'

The London Tooth Wear Centre offers an evidence-based and comprehensive approach to managing tooth wear.

To request advice, make a referral or for further information on the work of the London Tooth Wear Centre, please visit www.toothwear.co.uk, email info@toothwear.co.uk or call 020 7486 7180.

For references, contact julian@dentistry.co.uk.

