

Risk prediction: the future of preventive care?

Knowing exactly how many patients in your practice are at high or medium risk of periodontal disease may not seem exactly reassuring - but to a select group of Denplan Excel Accredited dentists it's bringing peace of mind. This is at a time when, according to figures from Dental Protection Ltd, a third of all the highest value negligence claims against dentists relate to allegations of undiagnosed or untreated periodontal disease.

The dentists in question became the first in the UK to trial the risk and disease assessment technology PreViser over a six month period. This means that in addition to knowing the risk profile of their practice, they also know that the patients understand the implications of their risk and disease status and what they should be doing about it.

Peter Everson is principal of Guiseley Dental Care. He learned about PreViser when doing an MSc at Birmingham University and opted into the trial. "The reaction of patients is gratifying," says Peter. "Patients like to see a personalised report. The whole package gives an impression we are at the forefront of technology, which we like. I think it also gives them a better insight into their disease. I have been talking to some patients for years about their perio condition and they have appeared to switch off - but with PreViser they seem to understand." From a Denplan perspective, Peter feels PreViser fits really well into Essentials. To get the patient into the right category with the appropriate number of hygiene appointments, you only need to look at their

PreViser assessment. "You have something concrete to base your decision on rather than a feeling and it can help the patient understand why they need to go into a higher band. I believe this is the right way to go to generate more hygiene appointments for the right people. You know you are not over treating or under treating. I think it is the right tool for the future."

What about the questions of cost (£200 per month for a one or two dentist practice) and time? Dave Neupert, a Denplan Dental Practice Advisor and General Practitioner takes a pragmatic outlook on both: "As with anything, cost is an element that you have to build into your fee structure. From initial data input through to an informed diagnosis and treatment plan, this may well be the most valuable fifteen minutes or so you are going to spend with your patient. The outcome is a considerably more motivated and understanding patient who can better relate risk with disease. Subsequent updates to the baseline readings take very little effort or time," he observes.

PreViser technology accurately calculates your patients' perio risk (1-5) and disease (1-100) scores through a simple 3 minute online assessment. For more information and a free one month trial, go to www.previser.co.uk or call 07725 125291.



Join us for a 'Coast to Coast' summer bike ride

Dust off your helmet, oil your wheels and stretch those 'glutes' - this summer Denplan is offering a choice of two fantastic charity bike rides. It's a great opportunity to get your practice team together, improve your fitness and work towards an achievable goal. It will also help Dentaaid to make a real difference to the lives of people in disadvantaged communities across the world.

Northern Coast to Coast (140 miles): Friday 30 July-Sunday 1 August

Follow the famous trail from Whitehaven, through the glorious Northern Lake District and the Pennines, to complete the route at Tynemouth. A support team is available to supply refreshments and carry your luggage to the next stop.

Devon Coast to Coast (104 miles): Saturday 28 August-Monday 30 August

From Ilfracombe Harbour travel along the Tarka Trail, Granite Way and Pym Valley Trail on a moderately challenging route to finish at the stunning waterfront in Plymouth.

Whichever ride you choose, you can cycle the whole route, just a day or even just a few miles. All you need to do is commit to raising as much money as you can, send in a £25 non-refundable deposit, and undertake to cover any accommodation and other expenses incurred during the trip. For further details contact Gemma Mills at dentaaid@denplan.co.uk or visit www.denplan.co.uk/events

Denplan supports Northern Ireland BDA

Denplan is proud to be sponsoring the Northern Ireland branch of the British Dental Association (BDA) this year, offering not only financial support but also the help of Denplan staff at many of the events planned for 2010.

"We find this a great way of providing tangible support for the dental profession in Northern Ireland," explains Steve Anderson, Denplan's Area Manager for Northern Ireland. "By also attending the BDA events, not only do we get the opportunity to meet our clients, we also meet non-Denplan dentists which allows us to discuss the changing face of dentistry in Northern Ireland."

With Steve Anderson and locally based consultants Pauline Bingham and Joanne Hall, Northern Ireland has three Denplan professionals dedicated to supporting the dental profession there.

Richard Graham, recently inaugurated as this year's President of the BDA Northern Ireland, says: "I am delighted that in my year as President I can count on Denplan's sponsorship."



Richard Graham receives the sponsorship cheque from Roger Matthews, Denplan's Chief Dental Officer, along with Area Manager Steve Anderson, Regional Consultant Joanne Hall and Key Client Consultant Pauline Bingham.