By Dental Tribune International

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., USA: Today, general dentists in the U.S. and other parts of the world provide a comprehensive range of services. However, there has been only limited research on which specific procedures are performed most commonly by this group. Now, a new study has shown that non-implant restorative treatments, esthetic procedures, and extractions are routinely performed by the majority of general dentists. Over 60 percent also provide implant treatments.

In order to determine the ten most commonly performed dental procedures, data from 2,367 general dentists in the U.S. National Dental Practice-Based Research Network were collected via a questionnaire.

The majority of participants stated that they perform non-implant restorative treatments (96 percent), esthetic procedures (59 percent), and extractions (64 percent) on a regular basis. Almost 60 percent said that they also perform endodontic therapy. While orthodontic treatments and periodontal surgery were not common among two-thirds of the participants, over 60 percent stated that they perform dental implant procedures occasionally or routinely.

The study also found that more male dentists performed endodontic procedures, implant treatments and surgical periodontal therapy than did their female counterparts.

As a considerable number of general dentists interviewed reported performing at least some endodontic procedures and periodontal surgery, it is possible that provision of such services is a means for general dentists to adapt to the availability of dental specialists and to overall demand for services in their practices, the researchers said.

“These findings may have implications for how general dentists respond to the changing picture of dental economics...”

The study, titled “Provision of Specific Dental Procedures by General Dentists in the National Dental Practice-Based Research Network: Questionnaire Findings,” was published online on Jan. 22 in the BMC Oral Health journal. It was conducted by researchers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in collaboration with other scientific research institutions throughout the U.S.

Over 60 percent of general dentists perform dental implant procedures

“These findings may have implications for how general dentists respond to the changing picture of dental economics...”

A new study has shown that general dentists adapt to changing economic demand and the needs of their patient population by providing a comprehensive range of dental procedures, including dental implants. (Photograph: greenbutterfly/Shutterstock)
KaVo donates dental treatment unit to UNESCO village in Sri Lanka

By Dental Tribune International

A HUNGALLA & KOSGODA, Sri Lanka: Recently, KaVo Dental, an international manufacturer of dental instruments, equipment and imaging technology, donated one of its dental treatment units to a development aid project in Sri Lanka. Through the donation, people living in the UNESCO village south-west of Sri Lanka will have access to dental treatment in the future.

“KaVo has now donated a dental treatment unit to the village, where 34 families live.”

On 26 December 2004, large parts of Indonesia were struck by an Indian Ocean earthquake that resulted in a tsunami. The plight of the affected countries, including Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Somalia, prompted a worldwide humanitarian response. Ahungalla and Kosgod, two communities in the south-west of Sri Lanka, were very hard hit: 200 people lost their lives and about 400 houses were destroyed. Shortly after the catastrophe, German charity organisation Future for Children helped build a UNESCO village within a few months.

KaVo has now donated a dental treatment unit to the village, where 54 families live. The second-hand ESTETICA Comfort 1005 unit was completely refurbished by the company's service team. In December 2014, monk Wimaladhamma Tissa Nayaka from the UNESCO village and Elfride Süß, the contact person from Future for Children in Sri Lanka, visited KaVo's production site in Germany, where 1065 units were produced.

KaVo has donated a dental treatment unit to the village, where 54 families live.

The unit will be installed shortly by KaVo's distributor Pluradent.

BEGO celebrates 125th anniversary

By Dental Tribune International

BREMEN/COLOGNE, Germany: BEGO, a German-based provider of dental equipment and materials, has announced the launch of the “Building the Future for 125 Years—Happy Birthday BEGO” campaign in celebration of its 125th anniversary. To kick off a year of celebrations, the company will unveil its new 3-D printer, Varseo, at the upcoming International Dental Show (IDS) in Cologne.

“2015 is set to be a very special year...”

In Cologne, the company will be introducing its latest self-developed 3-D printing system to the public. Varseo is optimised for dental applications and allows for the production of a wide range of plastic items in the laboratory. In addition to the printer, associated materials, software tools and services, such as splints, surgical guides, CAD/CAM partial denture frames and customised impression trays, will be on display.

BEGO was founded in 1890 by Dr William Herbst in Bremen. Today, the family-run company has an international workforce of approximately 450 in its BEGO Dental, BEGO Medical and BEGO Implant Systems divisions.

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“Smile for life” campaign: FDI encourages people to limit sugar intake

By Dental Tribune International

GENEVA, Switzerland: As World Oral Health Day (WOHD) 2015 approaches, FDI World Dental Federation advises people to consider the impact of frequent sugar consumption on their smile for life. Dental caries is the most common non-communicable disease in the world, and research has demonstrated that sugars are the main cause of tooth decay.

When one eats or drinks something sugary, the bacteria in the plaque feeds on the sugar and releases acid that attacks teeth for about one hour. Frequent consumption of sugar results in prolonged acid attacks, weakening the protective outer layer of the teeth.

Speaking about this process, Dr Jaime Edelson, chairperson of the FDI WOHD task team, commented: “Sugar reacts with bacteria in the mouth, which together form an acid that damages the enamel. When this keeps happening, a hole is formed in the tooth, which then requires filling and may over time lead to an extraction. By paying close attention to how often we are consuming sugary foods and drinks, the number of acid attacks on our teeth can be reduced.”

WOHD is an opportunity for the FDI to draw attention to proven oral care behaviours that people can adopt to protect their teeth—for life. These include brushing twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste, cutting down on consumption of sugary foods and drinks between meals, and chewing sugar-free gum after meals and snacks when on the go and brushing is not feasible.

FDI President Dr Tin Chun Wong commented, the theme of “World Oral Health Day 2015, ‘Smile for life’, has a double meaning—lifelong smile and celebrating life. Smiling implies self-confidence and having fun, as people only smile if they are happy and have a healthy life. Please take the time to consider your oral health and bring a smile to everyone around you.”

world’s largest manufacturers of dental technology, with a product portfolio that has placed it in the vanguard of the industry.

“We received a unique opportunity to share our growth story with the Swedish leaders and to introduce to them our newest dental and healthcare innovations, such as combinations of patient 3-D data. Thanks to the emergence of 3-D technologies and applications, dental care is undergoing a remarkable change,” said Tuomas Lokki, Senior Vice-President of Planmeca. “A great deal has been done in Finland to promote innovation. One of our country’s main strengths is the active dialogue between companies, academia and the government. Healthcare technology has recently become Finland’s largest high-tech export, and we’re proud to be forerunners in the field,” Lokki stated.

The Royal Technology Mission visit was organised by the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences. The academy has organised similar excursions around the world since 1984. In addition to His Majesty, the mission is formed by business executives and other influential figures from Sweden’s private and public sectors.