**Press release**

GC Symposium at the CED-IADR/NOF Oral Health Research Congress in Vienna, Austria

**Modern insights in dental caries management have caused a growing focus on minimally invasive treatment approaches**

**A paradigm shift has occurred in the treatment of cavitated carious lesions towards conservation of as much natural tooth structure as possible. As one of the leading dental companies worldwide, GC Corporation was a pioneer in the field of minimally invasive dentistry and has adopted it as its core philosophy. With the aim of sharing the latest trends in conservative dentistry, GC Europe organised a symposium during the Oral Health Research Congress of the CED-IADR together with the Scandinavian Division of the International Association for Dental Research (NOF). The symposium, entitled “Restorative options considering modern aspects on caries management”, was held on September 23rd in Vienna.**

Leuven, September 2017 - The symposium, chaired by Prof. Angus Walls, Director of the Edinburgh Dental Institute, addressed the growing evidence supporting a minimal intervention approach in the management of caries. Dental researchers and professionals in the audience particularly appreciated the useful guidelines for caries management and the provision of new insights in current restorative materials.

**Avoid entering the restorative cycle and retain tooth tissue as long as possible**

The symposium was opened with a lecture by Dr. Falk Schwendicke, deputy head of the Department of Operative and Preventive Dentistry at Charité-Universitätsmedizin in Berlin, Germany. He said a changed perception of dental caries and the dynamics of carious lesions had caused a paradigm shift towards less invasive management. There is growing evidence to support sealing and partial, rather than complete, caries removal. Current therapies aim at maintaining pulpal vitality and reinstituting the affected dentin, especially with regard to the management of cavitated, deep lesions. One challenge, however, is how to restore cavities resulting from techniques where demineralized, possibly bacterially contaminated tissue remains. Glass ionomers and other bioactive materials are very promising here, and the location and extent of the lesion, the caries risk and its activity will further guide how to restore these teeth.

**A minimally invasive approach is necessary to preserve the natural dentition in our ageing population**

The second speaker was Dr. Gerry McKenna, Clinical Senior Lecturer at the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences at the Queen’s University Belfast, UK. He said the ageing of our population would have profound consequences for all aspects of healthcare, including oral health. Globally, high rates of coronal and root surface caries are found amongst the elderly. Recession of the gingival margin is common, exposing the enamel-cementum junction, which is more susceptible to caries. Oral hygiene education, early detection and a minimally invasive restorative approach are essential if we are to maintain people’s natural teeth in a healthy way for a lifetime.

**Modern glass ionomer restorations show long-term clinical success while preserving their caries-preventive qualities**

Last but not least, Prof. Ivana Miletic from the Department of Endodontics and Restorative Dentistry at the School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb, Croatia presented clinical evidence on the use of two highly viscous glass ionomers, EQUIA and EQUIA Forte, including some preliminary results of their ongoing clinical study with EQUIA Forte. These improved glass ionomers with a protective nano-filled coating have shown long-term clinical success, according to the scientific data.

With more than 500 million glass ionomer restorations placed, GC Corporation is the global leader in this field. And because of GC’s expertise and the work of its research and development team, the latest innovations in glass ionomer technology - EQUIA and EQUIA Forte - can now be recognized as fully-fledged permanent restorations. This was also confirmed by the randomised clinical trial that Gurgan et al. presented during this conference, showing high clinical success rates similar to composite for posterior restorations with EQUIA after 8 years of clinical service. Thanks to its many advantages, such as adhesion to moist tooth structure, fluoride release, biocompatibility and low toxicity, EQUIA is the ideal restorative option in the modern minimal intervention strategy.

At GC Corporation, we take our mission to preserve teeth very seriously. That is why GC Europe has developed comprehensive guidelines on treatment plans and the practical implementation of minimal intervention dentistry in collaboration with the MI Advisory Board, a group of high-ranking academics, researchers and dental practitioners who have gained expertise and studied the clinical evidence supporting a minimally invasive approach.

<http://cdn.gceurope.com/v1/PID/mipasteplus/leaflet/LFL_MI_Dentistry_Handbook_en.pdf>

Visit <https://www.gc-dental.com/products/mi-concept/> for more information on our philosophy and products.

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