



# blackhills clinic newsletter



## Do not throw this newsletter away

It contains important information that your dentist will need to know. Previous feedback suggests that some dentists are not receiving these newsletters.

## Why be seen by a Dental Specialist?

Blackhills Specialist Dental Clinic brings together a team of hospital Consultants and Specialists in the major aspects of modern clinical dentistry. This means that when a patient is referred to Blackhills, they can often be seen by more than one Specialist clinician. Each team member has their own area of expertise and so we can ensure that virtually all treatment is carried out within the Clinic, avoiding further travel elsewhere.

New procedures in dentistry are constantly being developed and our Specialist team employs the most up to date skills, materials, techniques and equipment. Whatever the complexity of the dental problem, there is usually a combination of Specialists who will work together to provide the required treatment solutions.

It is important to recognise that the GDC have demanded that rigorous criteria are met before anyone can be termed a 'Specialist'. All the Clinicians at Blackhills Clinic have many years experience in helping dentists and their patients from all over Scotland, the UK and beyond.

It is our policy to treat patients only for the problem for which they have been referred (unless other issues become apparent). Upon completion of their treatment, the patient will always be returned back to their dentist for continuing general dental care.



## “Long in the Tooth”

Don't forget: Blackhills offers a full range of periodontal – plastic surgery treatments; for unsightly recession defects, usually just a single surgical procedure can give a significant aesthetic improvement.

## “Asleep on the Job”

Blackhills provides intravenous conscious sedation for all general dental and oral surgery. Treatment for your anxious patients is undertaken by our team of Specialists.

## Announcement Hold the Date

Patient Communication  
and Ethical Sales

**Ashley Latter** will be presenting an evening seminar on **Thursday 11 November 2010**. This event will be **free for all our referring dentists and their teams**. Venue and booking arrangements to be confirmed.

## Focus on: Paul Stone, BDS(Hons), FDS RCSEd Specialist Oral Surgeon

### The Good:

Paul is one of the Clinical Directors at Blackhills Clinic and many of you will know him for his involvement in implant dentistry over the past 22 years including President of the UK Association for Dental Implantology (ADI) a few years ago. He is currently the Chairman of the Advisory Board in Implant Dentistry of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh where he is also the Senior Examiner for the new Diploma in Implant Dentistry (D. Imp. Dent. RCSEd)

Paul is the Scientific Chairman for the European Association of Osseointegration (EAO) Annual Scientific Congress which will take place in Glasgow (October 6 – 9, 2010) and is regarded as one of the major events of its kind in the world. He is also currently the President-elect of the EAO and in October will take over as President. In 2005 and 2008 he was an Invited Member of the GDC working group given the task of preparing the document: "Training Standards in Implant Dentistry".

Paul lectures internationally on many different aspects of implant dentistry and recently was one of the main speakers at the International Team for Implantology (ITI) World Congress in Geneva. He lectured to over 4000 delegates from 92 countries presenting the results of a human pilot study undertaken at Blackhills Clinic, using a new implant alloy.

It is fair to say that Paul is currently regarded as one of the leading figures in implant dentistry in the UK and Europe and his work over many years has contributed significantly to implant dentistry and its role as a rapidly expanding treatment option.

### The Bad:

Some of you may be aware of a recent decision by the Investigating Committee of the GDC to give a formal published

warning to Paul for "misleading the public by claiming to be a specialist in implant dentistry when no such registered title exists". He is concerned about how this outcome might be viewed by the 500 dentists who already refer to Blackhills Specialist Dental Clinic and has therefore decided to inform readers of the newsletter the details of this event.

Unfortunately, one of our referring dentists had included on their practice website (completely unknown to Paul) a statement that Paul was a "specialist in implant dentistry". This was the only accusation made against him and it was reported in a one line letter to the GDC anonymously. Despite a strong appeal, the Investigating Committee still found against him and imposed the 6 month published warning; now thankfully over.

Needless to say the irony and embarrassment of this situation has caused great anxiety and concern. Paul is planning to confront the GDC regarding the issue of 3rd party misrepresentation as it seems ridiculous that you can be held solely responsible for something claimed by another person, without your knowledge. In the meantime we ask that any colleague planning to mention Paul or any other Blackhills' specialist in their practice literature or website, ensure that they are correctly referred to, as stated on our website ([www.blackhillsclinic.com](http://www.blackhillsclinic.com)). Paul is also very grateful to the many colleagues who have supported him over this period with letters and telephone calls as well as by the increasing numbers of patients being referred to him!



Paul Stone speaking at recent ITI World Congress, Geneva



# Dental Implant Maintenance

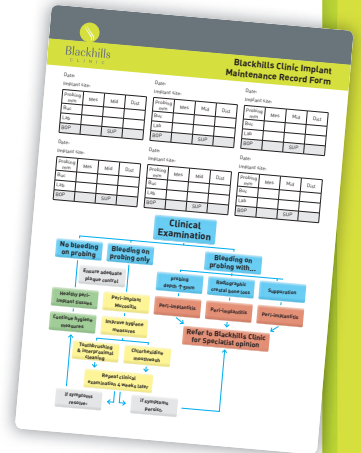
Recent published evidence from a number of reliable clinical studies indicates a previously unrecognised problem with peri-implant infection affecting over 50% of all implants (regardless of type) after 10 years. Fortunately the studies suggest that this number can be significantly reduced where there is an effective maintenance programme.

Blackhills Clinic takes this situation very seriously and after much discussion, the clinical team have decided to introduce a monitoring protocol for patients treated at the clinic. From now on all patients returned to the referring dentist will be accompanied by a "Record Form" that should be filled in at each "check-up" appointment. This will give guidance as to how these patients are to be maintained and will also include an algorithm indicating the steps to take when certain clinical features present. The most important points to note are:

1. The importance of ensuring adequate plaque control around all implants
2. The importance of probing gently around all implants and recording the findings on the record form

A copy of this Implant Maintenance Record Form is included with this newsletter and can be photocopied and used for all implant patients. The form can also be downloaded from the Blackhills website ([www.blackhillsclinic.com](http://www.blackhillsclinic.com)) or you can just contact the clinic and ask for more copies to be sent to your practice. The key objective is that the form is used for all implant patients and that you follow the guidance when problems are encountered.

For further information about this or any other aspect of implant dentistry, contact the surgical and prosthodontic teams at Blackhills.



## What About "Mini" Implants

Perhaps it is not surprising that increasing numbers of general dental practitioners are becoming involved in implant dentistry. One of the ways they are tempted is to attend a short course on "mini" implants and to then introduce this to their patients.

So what's the problem? There is still limited scientific evidence supporting the long-term use of these very narrow implants and the short-term studies indicates much lower success rates compared to conventional implants.

Blackhills Clinic has offered "mini" implants to carefully selected patients for a number of years. This includes overdentures for elderly patients with a very resorbed mandibular ridge. Generally, the combination of accurate cone-beam CT imaging and the latest implant material technology allows us to now offer very predictable implant treatment with reduced diameter "conventional" implants.

Blackhills was the first place in the world to carry out placement of the new titanium – zirconium alloy implants in humans and Paul Stone recently presented the two year results of this study at the World ITI Congress, confirming the outstanding potential offered by this new material.



## Occlusal Splints and Snoring Appliances

Every day in clinical practice, we all see patients who are experiencing symptoms associated with jaw clenching, tooth grinding and snoring. These can include tooth wear, restoration fracture, crown loosening, TMJ disorders with muscular pain or tension headaches (even certain types of migraine), and excessive tiredness with loss of concentration. Nocturnal clenching (bruxism) can cause tender facial muscles on waking, which although benefitting from soft occlusal splints in the short-term, is rarely cured with this treatment.

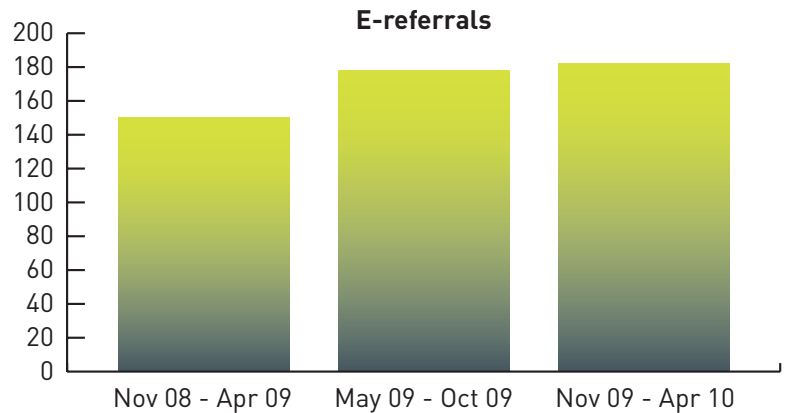
Snoring is a common cause of marital unrest affecting not only the unfortunate partner who often suffers from disturbed sleep, but sometimes also the snorer where it is accompanied by obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA), leading to excessive daytime sleepiness with irritability, mood changes and depression.

At Blackhills Clinic we have teamed up with a leading supplier of occlusal splints designed to address both conditions with individually designed occlusal appliances.

Next time you see a patient presenting with excessive tooth wear, frequent restoration damage or TMJ / myofascial pain, consider a referral to Blackhills. Similarly, where the issue of snoring arises, we can see the patient to help rule out the more serious OSA condition and then provide a custom-made appliance to reposition the mandible more anteriorly; opening the oropharynx and reducing or curing the snoring.

## E-referrals – an update

The number of referrals to Blackhills Clinic increases every year and all the Specialists are grateful for the confidence you have shown. We are especially pleased with how well accepted the “e-referrals” are and have shown a steady increase over the past 18 months. You can still use the more conventional methods, such as the Blackhills referral form, email or letter, but we are confident that you will find the e-referral very user-friendly.



### WEBSITE ADDRESS FOR YOUR E-REFERRALS

[www.blackhillsclinic.com/dentist-info.php](http://www.blackhillsclinic.com/dentist-info.php) Password – ‘Blackhills’

## Education programme 2010 for the dental team

- Wed 1 September** Treatment planning dilemmas – Adela Laverick
- Wed 15 September** Implant overdentures – Ken Watkins
- Wed 22 September** Better posture for all the dental team – Neil Bryson, Perth Royal Infirmary
- Wed 13 October** Peri-implant diseases and implant maintenance – Marilou Ciantar
- Wed 20 October** Implant Dentistry overview – Paul Stone
- Mon 25 October** Making the most of your Practice computer - Clelland Anderson, AMAS (Europe) Ltd
- Wed 27 October** Periodontology update – Marilou Ciantar
- Thurs 11 November** Patient communication and Ethical Sales – Ashley Latter (Venue to be confirmed)
- Wed 24 November** Safe record keeping – Aubrey Craig, MDDUS

Separate evening for Restoring dentists -

Reduced diameter implants – implications for restoring dentists – Paul Stone

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