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Are we too frightened to do treatment? Michael Sulta

🕒 Posted by **Erica Kilburn** on Wednesday, 19 February 2014 in **Product Updates**

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In this age of litigation, everyone it seems is worried about being sued and losing their livelihood. For dent all, it only takes one small complaint from a patient and whether you're innocent or guilty, chances are yc

All of this means that newly qualified GDPs are now terrified of doing many procedures, having gained littl

certainly know about communication skills, vicarious liability and compliance, some may have only comple

And what are they to do now? Gone are the gung-ho days where dentists could try everything in the first fe according to plan are just too great. It would seem then, that the old adage of 'See one, Do one, Teach or

Changing attitudes

So what happened? What has brought about this sea change in the way we approach dentistry? Well for one Compensation or 'claim culture' has been with us for many years now, and there will always be someone c days are very quick to place blame, even when there may be no blame to be found. Often the question of believe it is their right to complain, even if it means reporting a complaint directly to the GDC.

But the problems don't just stop there. In the past treatment options were far more limited than they are treating patients for pain. There were also far fewer specialists back then, so there was much more emph

These days however, there is a completely different picture. For a start, the treatments that we can provi these new treatments are focussed on beauty over health. While there is of course nothing wrong with pro this has fundamentally changed the relationship we have with patients. This has gone hand-in-hand with a did dentistry in the past.

Increasing demands

There can be no doubting the fact that new technologies and treatments have been a fantastic boon for th latest 3D CBCT scanners, very few would argue that these advances *haven't* benefited patients and the pro techniques we can see more, and so we can treat more than ever before. All of these advances have mean spend more on treatments that make them look and feel better about themselves.

However there is one major pitfall here and it is to be found in the form of patient expectations. Because have gone up and patients expect a perfect cosmetic result every time. They don't always fully appreciate dental treatments just aren't designed to last for life.

Interesting times

Robert F. Kennedy once said, 'We live in interesting times'. I really don't think there is a more appropriate in an age of opportunity - we have access to better tools and technologies than ever before that allow us to see the darker side to dentistry, one that challenges us on a daily basis, and threatens to undermine the work that

With the ever-increasing burden of compliance, assessments and the threat of litigation, in many ways we are disillusioned with a system whereby admin work and needless regulations trump good common sense and good

It would seem that fear today, is one of the biggest threats to our profession. Many colleagues now are too scared of the repercussions litigation might bring. And yet one can only wonder what the future of dentistry in the UK might be by what one's peers would do. In the States however, such cases are judged by specialist standards. If there is anything but triage unless they had further postgraduate training? The thought just doesn't bear thinking about

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