



Has the Football World Cup anything to do with dental traumatology?



Dear colleagues,

As we are facing the winter season and the days are getting shorter every day, certainly some of us remember the past summer. Besides the more or less sunny weeks, we enjoyed a fascinating and exciting Football World Cup in Brazil; numerous goals, thrilling matches and finally Germany emerging as the new world champion. However, the current disappointing results of the German team reveal that when one wants to stay at the top, it is not enough to rest on one's laurels.

The same is true for our profession – we have to keep ourselves up-to-date and to constantly improve our knowledge and skills. Perhaps this is especially important when treating patients suffering from a dental trauma. In my opinion these treatments are the most challenging ones in the field of endodontics. The patients – often minors and children – are suffering from pain, irritated by the suffered accident, worried about the preservation of the traumatised teeth, and moreover the accompanying parents are even more agitated. Anything but a relaxed situation!

Studies assessing the degree of knowledge among dentists in the management of dental trauma revealed a very heterogeneous and partially inadequate level of knowledge¹⁻³. Treating difficult children and anxious patients have been reported as major stressors of dentists^{4,5}. Thus, these studies confirm that dentists experience marked stress during the treatment of traumatic dental injuries and that there seems to be a certain need to improve the education regarding these treatments.

Therefore it is of the utmost importance – although perhaps we are not confronted with such cases daily – that we are aware of the current knowledge about treating traumatised teeth. That

is the reason why the editorial team of ENDO-Endodontic Practice Today decided to provide you with a contemporary update on dental traumatology. With the present issue, you have the first part of a special two-issue series focusing solely on the different aspects of dental traumatology in your hands. We have succeeded in attracting some of the best-regarded experts worldwide to provide you with the current state-of-the-art of dental traumatology. The second special issue on traumatic dental injuries is already in preparation and will follow next year.

Studying the present issue, which is packed with detailed hints for the particular treatments and providing a solid scientific background should be the easiest way to avoid resting on one's laurels. I hope you will enjoy reading this special issue of ENDO!

Edgar Schäfer

References

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