

Preface

This supplement is the first one totally devoted to dentistry in *Medical Principles and Practice*. It is the aim of this journal to cover all health sciences. This supplement is mainly based on the papers presented at the International Conference on Minimal Intervention Approach for Dental Treatment in the Health Science Centre, University of Kuwait, December 6–8, 1999. This conference was the first international conference organized by the Faculty of Dentistry, Kuwait University.

The aim of the conferences was to give a forum (1) to present results and to exchange experiences of the minimal intervention approach in the treatment of dental caries (a traumatic restorative treatment, ART) and (2) to introduce this new concept of minimal intervention into the other fields of dental treatment. The hidden agenda was also that new ideas would be presented and discussed with the local dentists in Kuwait and to introduce them based on scientific evidence. The conference furthermore aimed to make it clear to the public and to the dental professionals in Kuwait that there is now a new dental faculty, which is willing and competent to contribute to the development of dentistry in Kuwait. All the staff members worked very hard to make this first conference a success and they are also willing to work together with all dental professionals here in Kuwait and also outside Kuwait.

Most of the original papers presented at the conference were based on the multicentre research project by the Academy of Finland. The Academy of Finland also supported the arrangements at this conference. The Kuwait University and Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Science, KFAS, were the other funding bodies. This supplement contains three original articles and five review articles. The first paper is the only original oral health report from an extensive epidemiological study, the Kuwait Health Survey. The review papers describe different aspects of minimal intervention in fields other than caries treatment. In addition, all the abstracts of the presentations at the conference are published in this supplement.

The conclusion of the conference was that minimal intervention is an important aspect to be considered in all fields of dental treatment. It has been successfully implemented in caries treatment by emphasizing prevention and avoiding unnecessary loss of healthy tooth tissue. Several ART studies have provided evidence for the appropriateness of the ART technique and it should be included in all teaching programmes.

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