

Be scientific!

Invitation for poster submission



In accordance with their 43th International Annual Congress from 4 to 5 October 2013 in Berlin, DGZI (German Association of Dental Implantology) will also offer poster presentations to the participants. As part of the corresponding poster com-

petition, three winners will be elected among the participants. Along with a financial reward, winners will be given the opportunity to hold their own scientific speech at the upcoming DGZI Annual Congress.

Participants can submit their posters until 31 August 2013. They should be submitted in print, DIN-format A0 (841 x 1,189 mm) and can be in landscape or portrait format.

DGZI e.V.

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Early-morning smokers

Greater risk of oral cancer

A recent US study of almost 2,000 adult smokers has revealed that people who smoke a cigarette upon waking in the morning are significantly more likely to develop oral or lung cancer. The researchers found that participants who smoked the soonest after getting up were the most at risk.



Researchers from the Pennsylvania State University analysed urinary samples provided by 1,945 adults for tobacco-specific biomarkers. About 32 per cent of the participants smoked their first cigarette within five minutes of waking, 31 per cent smoked within 30 minutes of waking and 19 per cent smoked more than one hour after waking.

The researchers found that NNAL, a chemical compound found in tobacco and tobacco products, was twice as high in samples of participants who smoked within five minutes of waking compared with those who waited for at least one hour before smoking their first cigarette, regardless of how many cigarettes they smoked per day, said Dr Steven A. Branstetter, lead author and assistant professor at the university's Department of Biobehavioral Health.

"We believe that people who smoke sooner after waking inhale more deeply and more thoroughly, which could also explain the higher levels of NNAL in their blood, as well as their higher risk of developing oral or lung cancer," Branstetter said. According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, NNAL levels in smokers are about 50 to 150 times higher than in non-smokers. The findings were published in the April issue of the *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Prevention* journal.

Patients with facial paralysis

Benefit from new therapy

More than 70,000 patients in Germany alone are affected by facial paralysis following injury or surgery. A new interdisciplinary therapeutic approach that combines physiotherapy, physiology and behavioural medicine may relieve the symptoms, which impair patients' quality of life significantly. The therapy entails recording the electrical activity of facial muscles using electrodes placed near a patient's eye or corners of the mouth. The activity is graphically visualised on a screen and can be observed by both patient and therapist. In addition, facial expressions are recorded on camera to help patients learn the movements.

The therapy was developed at the facial nerve centre at the Jena University Hospital's ENT clinic (Germany),

which is collaborating with various medical institutions to improve diagnostics and treatment of facial nerve disorders. According to Dr Orlando Guntinas-Lichius, director of the clinic, the collaboration, which was started in 2012, is unique in Europe.

For a year already, the centre has been offering the new treatment. Through various exercises, the recording of the electrical activity of the facial muscles and the respective neuro-feedback, the patients learned how to control all of their facial muscles in a new and better way, according to the centre. They trained three to four hours per day for more than two weeks at the clinic with a specialised team of ENT doctors, neurologists and physiologists.