

The future of dentistry



Background

Dentistry has fallen foul of increased bureaucracy, heavy touch regulation, chronic underfunding, salary reductions, increased medicolegal awareness of patients, resulting in unprecedented levels of stress and low morale in the profession, aggravated by uncertainties over future contracts and commissioning, how the new government will address the unacceptable epidemic of oral disease affecting the most vulnerable citizens and the impact of Brexit.

Stand (fight) together for change, or continue down the slippery slope

Dental futurology

The future is what we make it!

Nobody else is going to do dentistry any favours

A professional responsibility to realise future potential in the interests of patients and the profession, let alone the time you have remaining in dentistry and your legacy.

The view of millennials

82% satisfied/extremely satisfied with career choice

82% intend to work within general practice

71% intend to 'specialise'

2% to provide NHS care only - “the art of the impossible”

87% anticipate mixed practice, with emphasis on non-NHS care

52% plan to practice part-time 15 years after qualifying

38% plan to retire from clinical practice/dentistry by/before 60

Puryer and Patel Brit Dent J, 2016;220: 183-186

Trend: Younger, more highly qualified, diverse profession with ambitions and high expectations, but reduced long term commitment to clinical practice and leadership, unless...

Reasons for optimism

Anticipated growth and changes in population

Growing importance of dental attractiveness

‘Halitophobia’

Growing realisation of the importance of oral health

Growth and potential in the business of dentistry

Trends in public attitude to dentistry

Anticipated expansion in the scope of practice

Increasingly internationalisation of dental care

“No other healthcare profession can match the future potential of dentistry”



WARNING!

There are **known knowns**. These are things we know that we know. There are **known unknowns**. That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know. But there are also **unknown unknowns**. These are things we don't know we don't know



Donald Rumsfeld

The dentist of the future

Oral health expert skilled in holistic care and leadership

Communicator - in a multicultural society

Collaborator – interprofessional, shared care of patients

Health advocate - promoting self help and prevention

Scholar/researcher/teacher –proactive advancement

Professional – modern ethics and professionalism

Council of European Dentists (CED), May 2017

Wilson NHF, Future-proofing educational guidance

BrDentJ, 2016; 221: p209

Dental workforce development

Oral clinical specialists (OCSs) dentists, typically with
‘tiered’ special interests and expertise

Oral healthcare providers (OHPs) (hygienists)
therapists and clinical dental technologists - “mid-level
providers”

Oral healthcare team members (OHTMs) dental
nurses, dental technologists, practice managers,
receptionists and other support staff

Fejerskov et al., 2014

**A primary qualification in dentistry is increasingly
viewed as the end of the beginning**

The dental team

Dentists, dental therapists, dental hygienists, clinical dental technologists, digital dentistry technologists, dental nurses, treatment coordinators, practice managers and...



Trends in practice arrangements

Corporatisation – Federations – Cooperatives
Oral health centres – Transnational practice

Corporatisation



Welcome to
The Dental Health Centre



WHO Framework for action on interprofessional education and collaboration



Health screening, counselling and vaccine administration are set to become integral elements of the dental contribution to the shared care of patients

Trend: Dentists becoming as much oral physicians as dental surgeons

Interprofessional working



Shared care of patients

Wilson NHF & Soni A Interprofessional working: a spearhead opportunity for dentistry and pharmacy. BrDentJ, 2016; 221: 607- 08

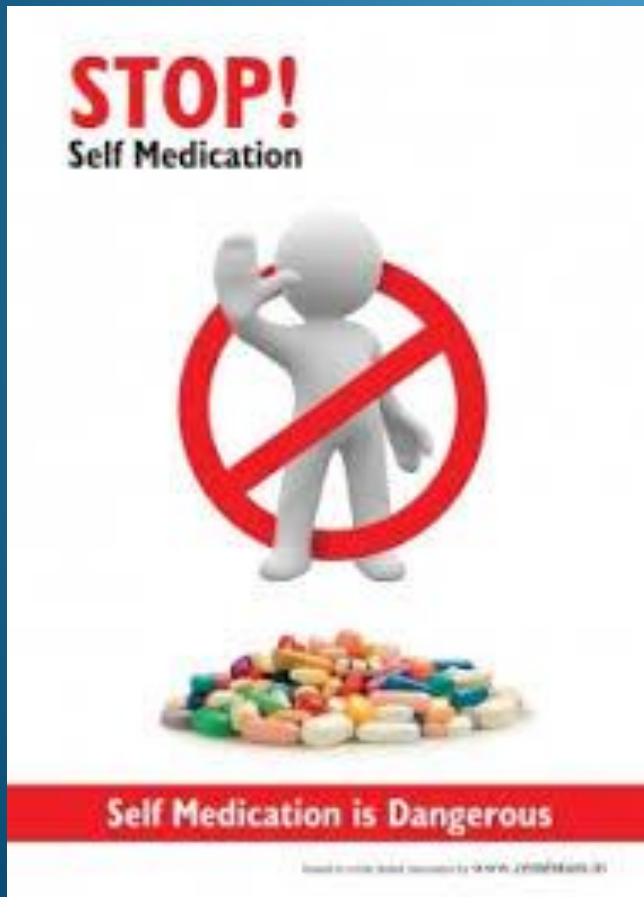
Global trends in the clinical practice of dentistry

A rapidly changing field of hi-tech healthcare provision

The rate of introduction of new concepts, technologies and management strategies is set to continue to increase –an upward trajectory trend



Self- medication



“Tests for the early of dental caries (and periodontal disease) will soon be available over the counter, together with self-medication therapies”

Amid Ismail, 2016

Minimal interventive dentistry

Risk assessment and diagnosis

“The effective application of risk assessment should largely eliminate the need for the diagnosis of disease.”

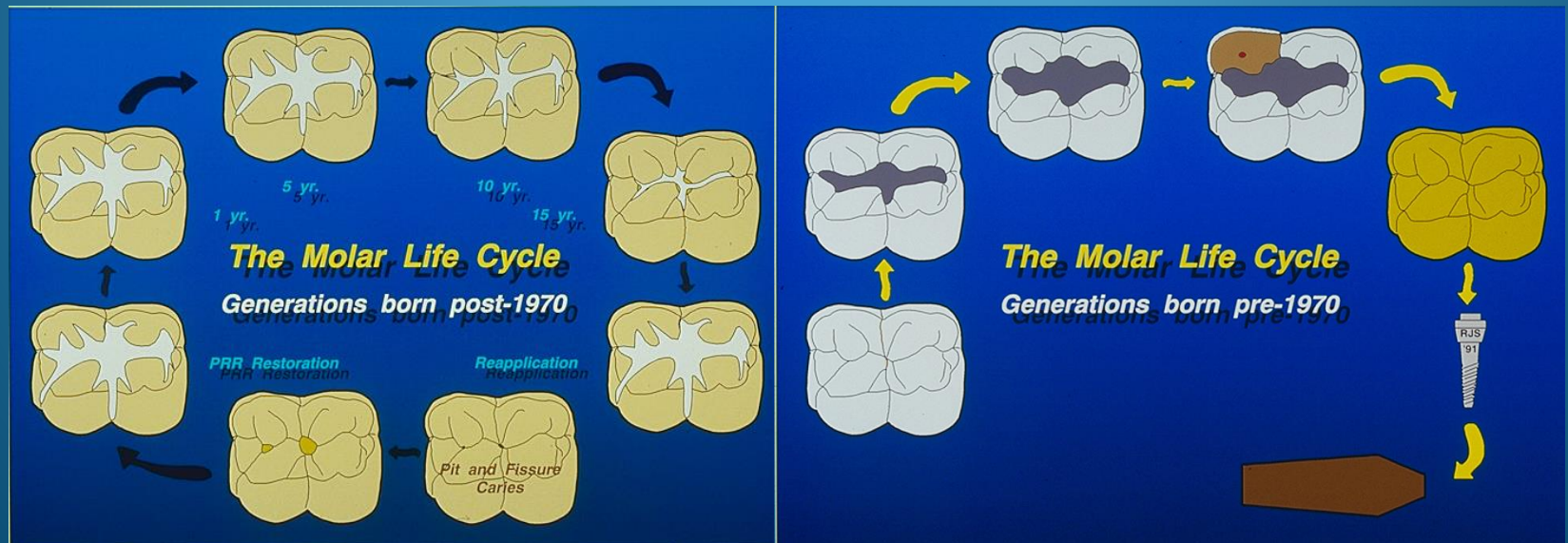
“The need to diagnose disease is an indication that risk assessment strategies have failed”



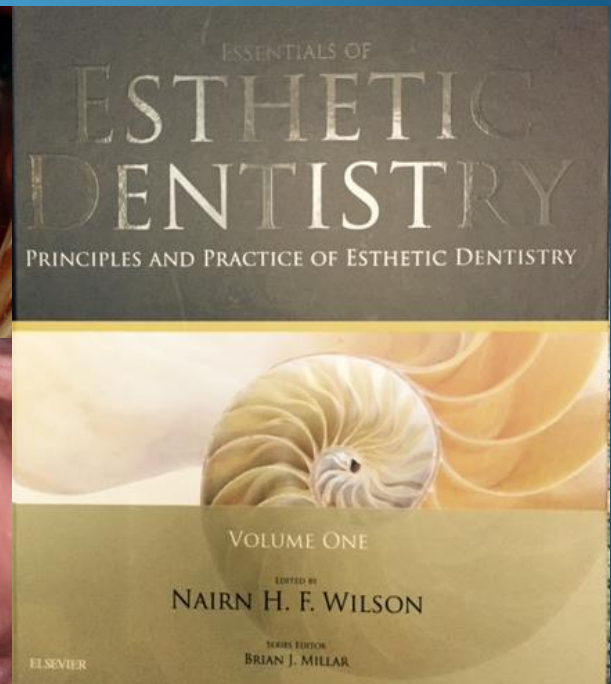
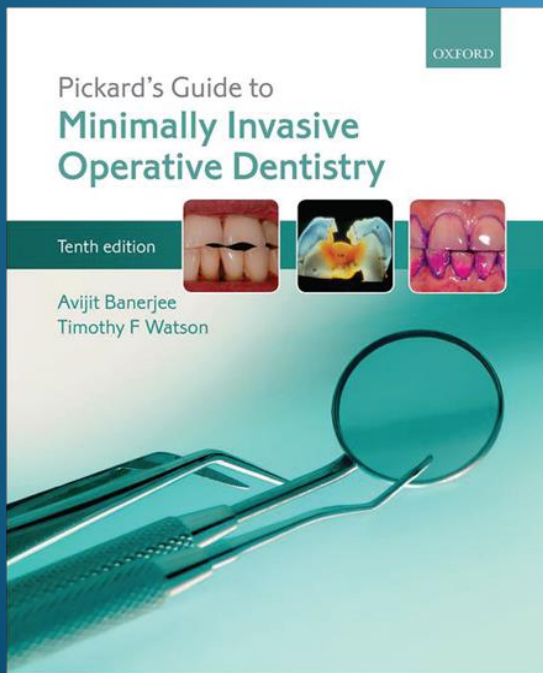


Patient-centred, preventatively orientated minimal interventive care

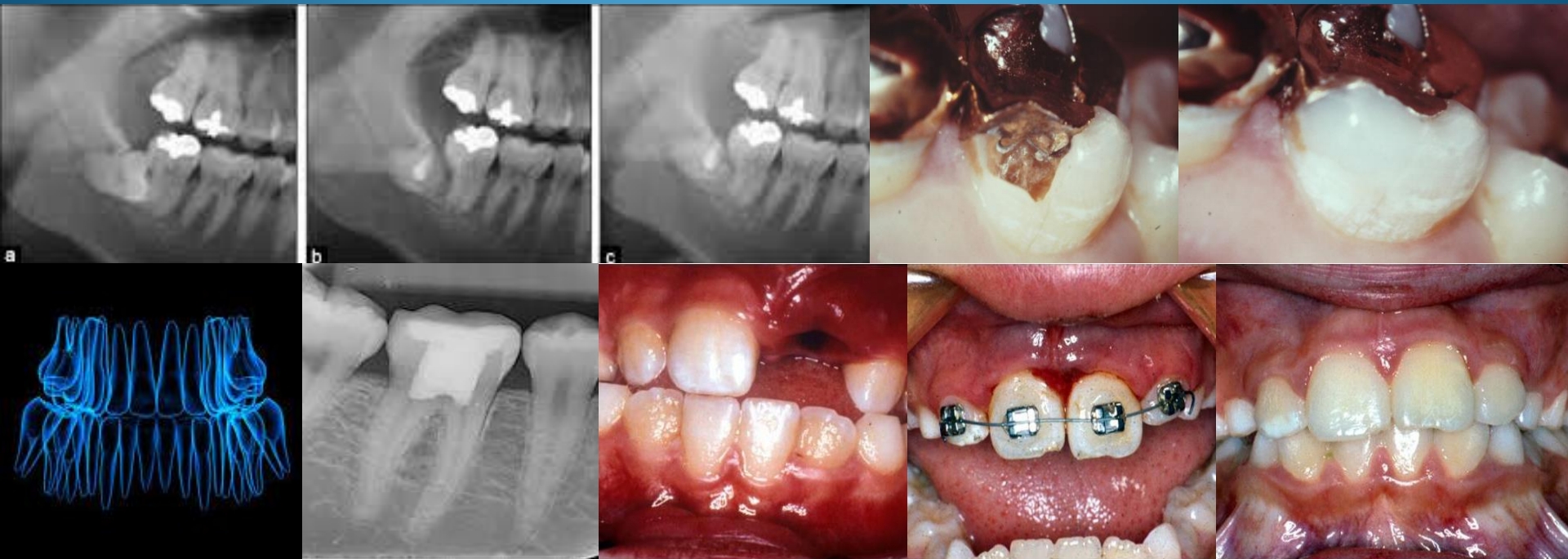
Dawson AS & Makinson OF, Dental treatment and dental health. A review of studies in support of a philosophy of minimum intervention dentistry. Aus Dent J, 1992: 126-132



Scope of PC MID-MIC-MIM



Clinical excellence vs. quality of care

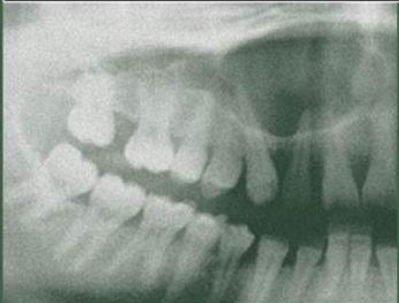


Endodontics vs. Implant dentistry

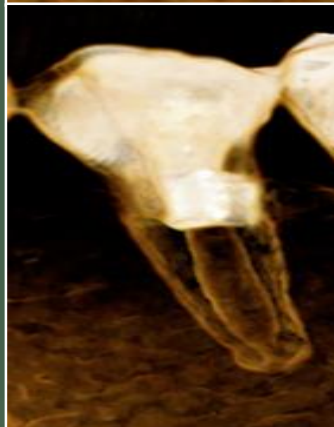
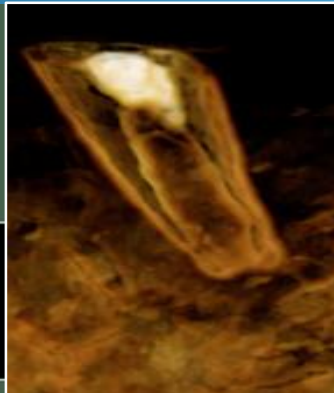
Regenerative Endodontics

GUEST EDITORS
Sami M.A. Chogle, BDS, DMD, MSD
Harold E. Goodis, DDS

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“... a call to action to revisit the long history of success of tooth maintenance to preserve the natural dentition without the rush to extract teeth and replace with implants.”



Giannobile, WV & Lang NP
J Dent Res, 2016;95:5-6



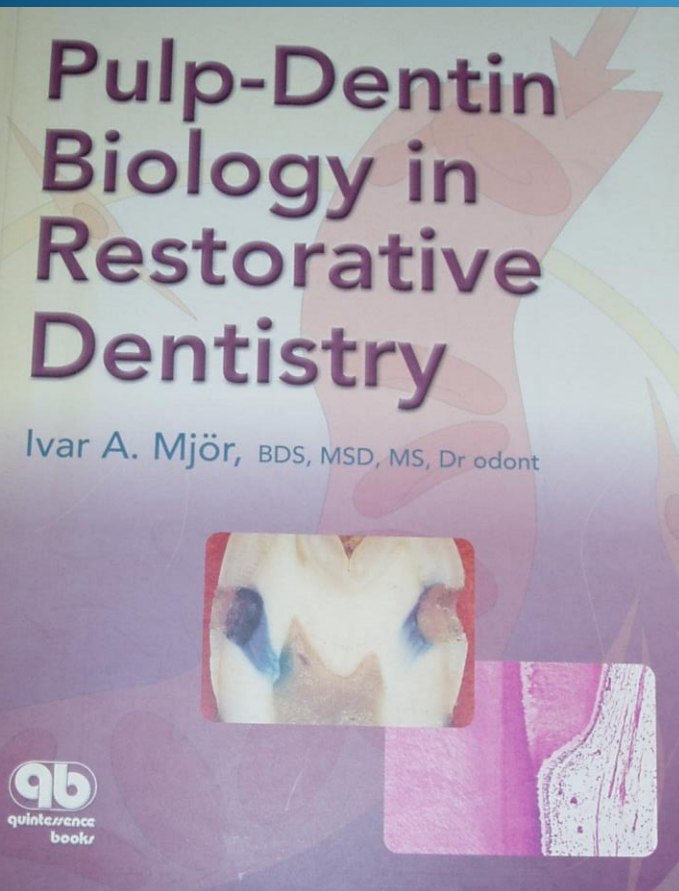
Bridgework vs removable prosthodontics



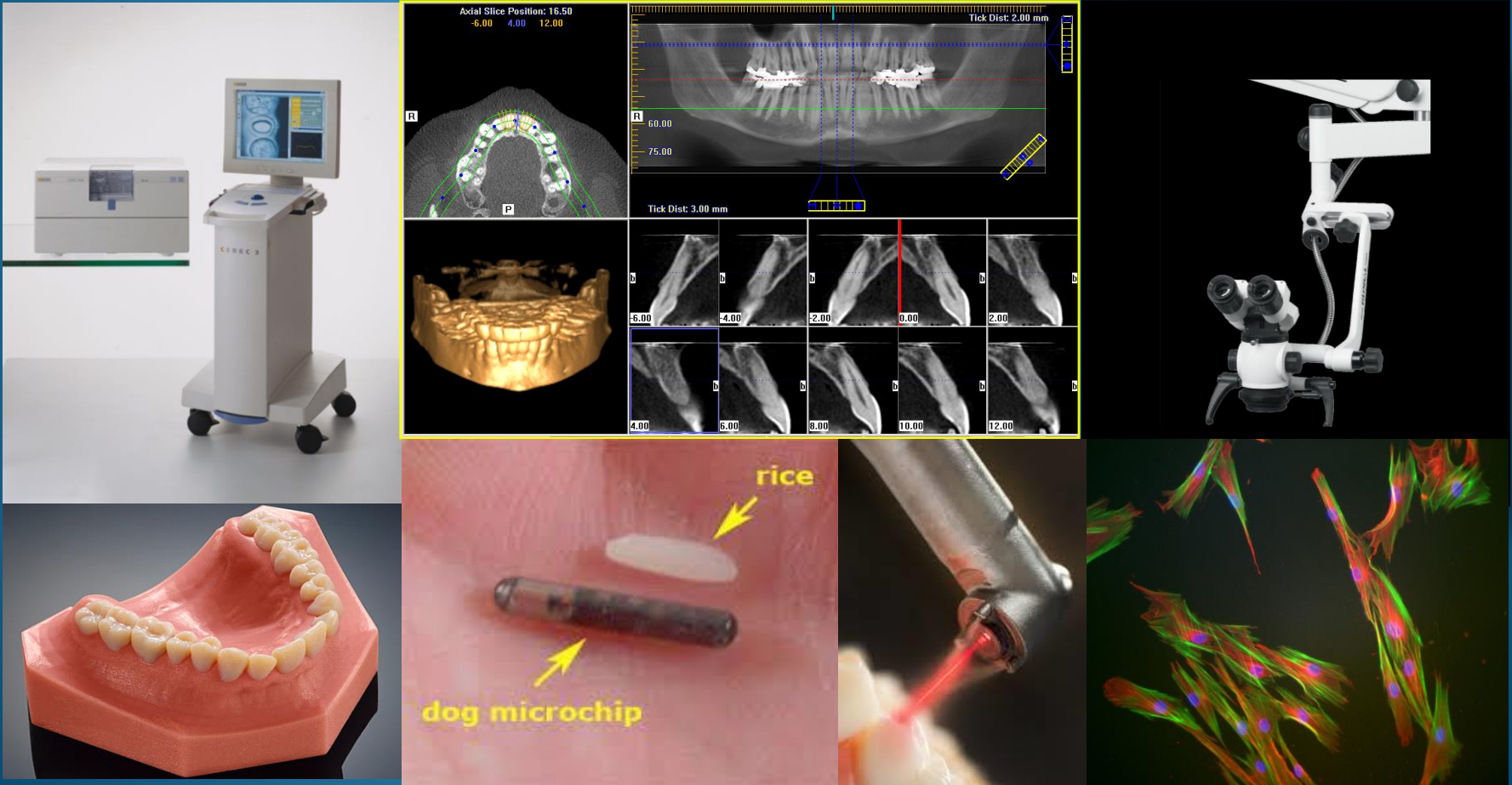
Crownwork vs veneers and onlays



Crownwork vs veneers and onlays



Sophistication of clinical practice



Increase in the management of older patients



Antiaging dentistry

Oral health enhancing healthy ageing
Management in terminal care

Implications of trends

Healthcare integration - Recruitment - Education -

Funding - Commissioning – Marketing – Costs

Lifelong learning/retraining – Patient expectations

Stress/burnout – Combination careers – New regulation

New ethical considerations – Behavioural change

Improved oral healthcare provision –

better care of more people





Doing nothing is not an option, and just complaining will get us nowhere

A dramatic seascape with a cloudy sky and crashing waves. The sky is filled with large, dark, textured clouds, with a bright light source (likely the sun) breaking through near the horizon, creating a strong glow and illuminating the clouds from below. The ocean is turbulent, with white-capped waves crashing and churning. The overall mood is one of resilience and hope.

"Just remember - when you think all is lost, the future remains."