



Lingual success in UK

The rising demand for lingual orthodontics in the UK is being spearheaded by the British Lingual Orthodontic Society (BLOS). The association of specialists has evolved from a select study club to a respected group which is hosting a major European event in London next year.

The current chairman of BLOS is Rob Slater, a Birmingham orthodontic specialist as well as a member of the organising committee for the European Society for Lingual Orthodontics meeting in July 2010. He regards lingual orthodontics as one of the most important dental developments of the 21st century.

Said Rob: “We had Edgewise at the start of the 20th century, Begg in the 1920s, Straightwire in the 1970s, aligner systems in the 1990s and now lingual today. We are out there in the market and watching it developing and it’s exciting.”

He added that many more general dental practitioners will be prepared to recommend orthodontic treatment to patients who need gaps closed or opened prior to a course of restorative treatment.

“Dentists will have refrained from suggesting orthodontics in the past because they know their patients won’t tolerate looking like a teenager. But when the appliances can be fitted behind the teeth, it’s a different story. BLOS members are already seeing more referrals from dentist colleagues.”

A generation of orthodontic specialists tried out lingual orthodontics in the 1980s and 1990s but largely gave up because of the mechanical challenges. The newest systems on the market have overcome these difficulties and specialists today are now taking courses to master different ways of placing brackets on lingual surfaces. Overjet reduction is easier with lingual and overbite reduction can also be more effectively achieved, said Rob.

BLOS members are well known and liked among orthodontists both in Europe and internationally. This has led to two joint meetings with the Italian counterpart to BLOS - Associazione Italiana Ortodonzia Linguale (AIOL) - and Rob and his ESLO colleagues have attracted an impressive line-up of world leaders in lingual orthodontics to London in 2010.

Rob hopes that the transformation of BLOS from niche to national will be complete in 2010 and lingual orthodontics will be established as part of the armamentarium of every ambitious orthodontic specialist. To find out more about BLOS, go to www.blos.co.uk or to find out more about the European meeting, go to www.eslo-congress.com