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**City to host SAARC orthodontic meet**

2 Nov 2007, 03:12 hrs IST, TNN

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**PUNE:** Correction of irregular teeth or repositioning of jaw is no more a phenomenon restricted to prospective brides or grooms who are out to correct their dentofacial deformities before marriage.

An increasing number of people are showing consciousness for correction of such deformities at an age as early as six years.

Advances in dental surgery techniques and rising level of expertise has made this possible.

To discuss these advances as well as ongoing research, top orthodontists from India and abroad besides dental course students will come together here for the first-ever Saarc (South Asian Association of Regional Conference) post-graduate (PG) orthodontic students' convention. The three-day conference begins on Friday at the Bharati Vidyapeeth University's dental college.

The event coincides with the 12th convention of the Indian Orthodontic Society (IOS), the apex body of orthodontists in the country.

Orthodontics is a speciality branch in dentistry that deals with aspects such as correction of irregular teeth and positioning of jaw.

The convention aims at providing a platform for students, teachers and expert professionals to share knowledge on research and clinical achievements in orthodontics, in India and abroad, said Ravindranath Sable, organising chairman and head of the department of orthodontics and dentofacial orthopaedics at the BVU dental college.

According to Sable, a lot of research was on in the field of materials and technology that facilitate

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various types of surgical treatment for curing people with dentofacial deformities.

"In the past, it used to be the ugly-looking and often inconvenient stainless clips that were used for correcting irregular teeth. Now, we have sophisticated implants made of newly developed materials, replacing these clips."

Implants like small brackets can be stuck in the tooth for periods as long as 12 to 24 months with minimal harm.

Much of the focus is on learning application of these techniques, the changing properties and biomechanic advances and even on the change in diagnostic approach, he said.

"India is still to gain an upper hand in the fabrication of dental clips by using computer-aided design (CAD) and computer-aided manufacturing (CAM) technology. This work still continues in foreign countries," Sable said.

Similarly, a lot of investment is going into infrastructure like sterilisation facilities, he pointed out.

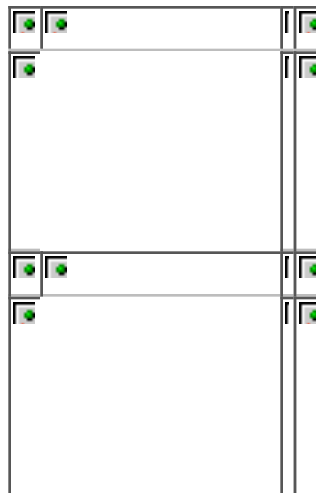
Robert Lokar, a US-based orthodontist and part-time associate professor at the University of Detroit, who has patents for various dental surgical appliances, is scheduled to address one of the pre-convention module. Shiv Shankar, director of PG studies at the Ohio State University, will speak on surgical orthodontic treatment.

Other expert orthodontists to address the convention include Mani K. Prakash, who specialises in 'micro screw implant anchorage'; Sadashiv Shetty, Prabodh Wadkar, V.P. Jayade, K. Jyothindra Kumar, who is a specialist in orthodontic materials; N.R. Krishnaswamy, S. Venkateswaran, Akhtar Hussain and Jayesh Rahalkar.

Sable said the organisers expect 700 delegates from 90 PG dental colleges in India and other Saarc countries.

Bangladesh, in particular, is sending a large contingent of PG students and dentists. Besides, there would be participation from Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal and Maldives, he said. In all 175 scientific papers will be presented.

Former University Grants Commission chairman Arun Nigavekar will inaugurate the convention at 5.30 pm on Friday in the presence of BVU founder chancellor Patangrao Kadam and vice-chancellor Shivajirao Kadam.



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