



European Regional Organisation of  
the Fédération dentaire internationale



# *50 years ERO*

ERO Plenary Session

11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> April 2014

Hyatt Regency Paris Étoile



European Regional Organisation  
of the Fédération dentaire internationale



\* 50 years ERO \*

CONGRATULATIONS!

from



German Academy of Dental Ergonomics  
of the German Society of Dental, Oral and Craniomandibular Sciences



European Regional Organisation of  
the Fédération dentaire internationale



★ 50 years ERO ★

CONGRATULATIONS!

also from



european society of dental ergonomics



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## ERO Plenary Session

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# Are Dentistry and Back Pain linked like Coal Mining and Silicosis?

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# RWTH Aachen University

## Faculty of Medical Sciences





**German Academy of Dental Ergonomics**  
of the German Society of Dental, Oral and Craniomandibular Sciences  
**Arbeitsgemeinschaft „Arbeitswissenschaft und Zahnheilkunde“**  
der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Zahn-, Mund- und Kieferheilkunde

**Founded 12<sup>th</sup> October 1973**

**1986-1996 AGAZ-President**

**1996-2005 AGAZ-Vice-Pres.**

**2005-2013 ESDE-President**

**2005-today AGAZ-President**



[european society of dental ergonomics](#)

# **Are Dentistry and Back Pain linked like Coal Mining and Silicosis?**

**Where does the title come from?**

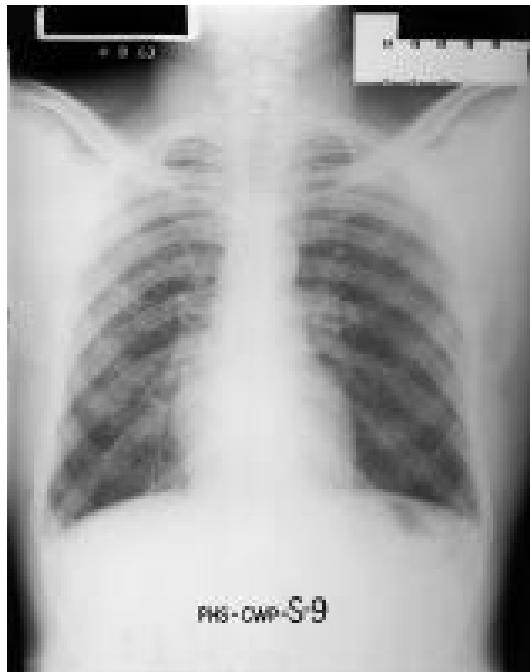
MEDI-LEARN Foren > Zahnmedizin: Foren nach Studienabschnitten > Zahni: Klinik / Staatsexamen (6.-10. Sem) > Zahnärzte und Rückenschmerzen (2006):

sir kent (22.01.2006, 12:42)  
„Zahnmedizin und Rückenschmerzen gehören zusammen wie Bergbau und StaUBLunge.“

[www.medi-learn.de/foren/archive/index.php/t-26422.html](http://www.medi-learn.de/foren/archive/index.php/t-26422.html)

## Are Dentistry and Back Pain linked like Coal Mining and Silicosis?

The word silicosis comes from the Greek word *silex*, meaning flint. It is perhaps the oldest known occupational disease; Hippocrates and Pliny referred to this disease. Silicosis is radiographically depicted in the lungs as widespread nodules measuring 2-5 mm in diameter, with a predominance in the middle and upper lung zones.



Pneumoconiosis = „lung dust“

Jedynak c.s. 2013 on Medscape

# Are Dentistry and Back Pain linked like Coal Mining and Silicosis?

## Preventive Measures

- Initial Assessment
- Air Monitoring
- Engineering Controls
- Personal Hygiene
- Protective Clothing
- Respiratory Protection



CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People.™



# Are Dentistry and Back Pain linked like Coal Mining and Silicosis?

## Preventive Measures

- Initial Assessment
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CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People.™



**1974 Nymegen/NL**

**1975 Tübingen/Germany**

**1978 1<sup>st</sup> Ergo-Publication**

## VII Praxisführung

Helt 6 Justi 1078  
Referat Nr. 5789 Seite 1

Originalarbeit:

### Überlegungen zur Ausstattung eines zahnärztlichen Arbeitsplatzes in einer Zahnklinik

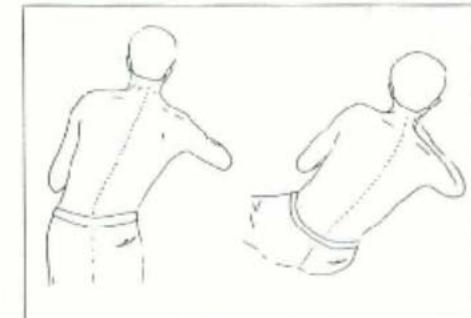
J. Rotgans, Tandarts, Dr. med. dent.  
Zentrum für Zahn-, Mund- und Kieferheilkunde des Universitätsklinikums  
Tübingen, Abteilung für Zahnerhaltung  
Adresse: Osianderstraße 2—8, 7400 Tübingen 1  
E. W. Linn, W. J. van Luynd H. L. Wakkerma, Tandartsen  
Subfaculteit Tandheelkunde der Katholieke Universiteit  
Adresse: Philips van Leydenlaan 25, 6525 EX Nijmegen, Niederlande

#### 1. Einleitung

Nach einer stürmischen Entwicklung ist es um die Anwendung ergonomischer Prinzipien in der zahnärztlichen Praxis ratifiziert geworden. Die neuen Konzepte schienen überzeugend, und viele Zahnärzte sahen sich veranlaßt, moderne zahnärztliche Arbeitsplätze zu installieren und sich ergonomisch umzustellen. In der Praxis jedoch zeigten sich weniger befriedigende Resultate, als man auf Grund der Informationsflut erwartet hatte. Zwar arbeiten heute die meisten Kollegen im Sitzen, aber Haltung des Zahnarztes und Lage des Patienten sind immer noch nicht optimal,

und so „krümmen“ sich die Zahnärzte weiter, um das Operationsfeld im Gesichtsfeld zu haben (Abb. 1). Unnötig und ermüdend ist die Arbeitshaltung von Händen und Armen; eine Wirbelsäulen-Torsion mit spezifischen Rücken- und Beinbeschwerden ist die Folge.

Bei vielen Arbeitskonzepten befindet sich das Instrumentarium noch immer nicht in unmittelbarer Reichweite des Zahnarztes. Oft wird mit Schläuchen und Kabeln „gerungen“, und man muß sehr weit und seitwärts nach Bohrer und Spritze greifen (*Sollewij Gelpé, 1974*). Man fragt sich, ob diese „Entwicklun-



# Typical working posture of dentists



Wouters 2007



What are the consequences?

Rohmert W, Mainzer J, Zipp P (1986)  
**Der Zahnarzt im Blickfeld der Ergonomie**  
Eine Analyse zahnärztlicher Arbeitshaltungen

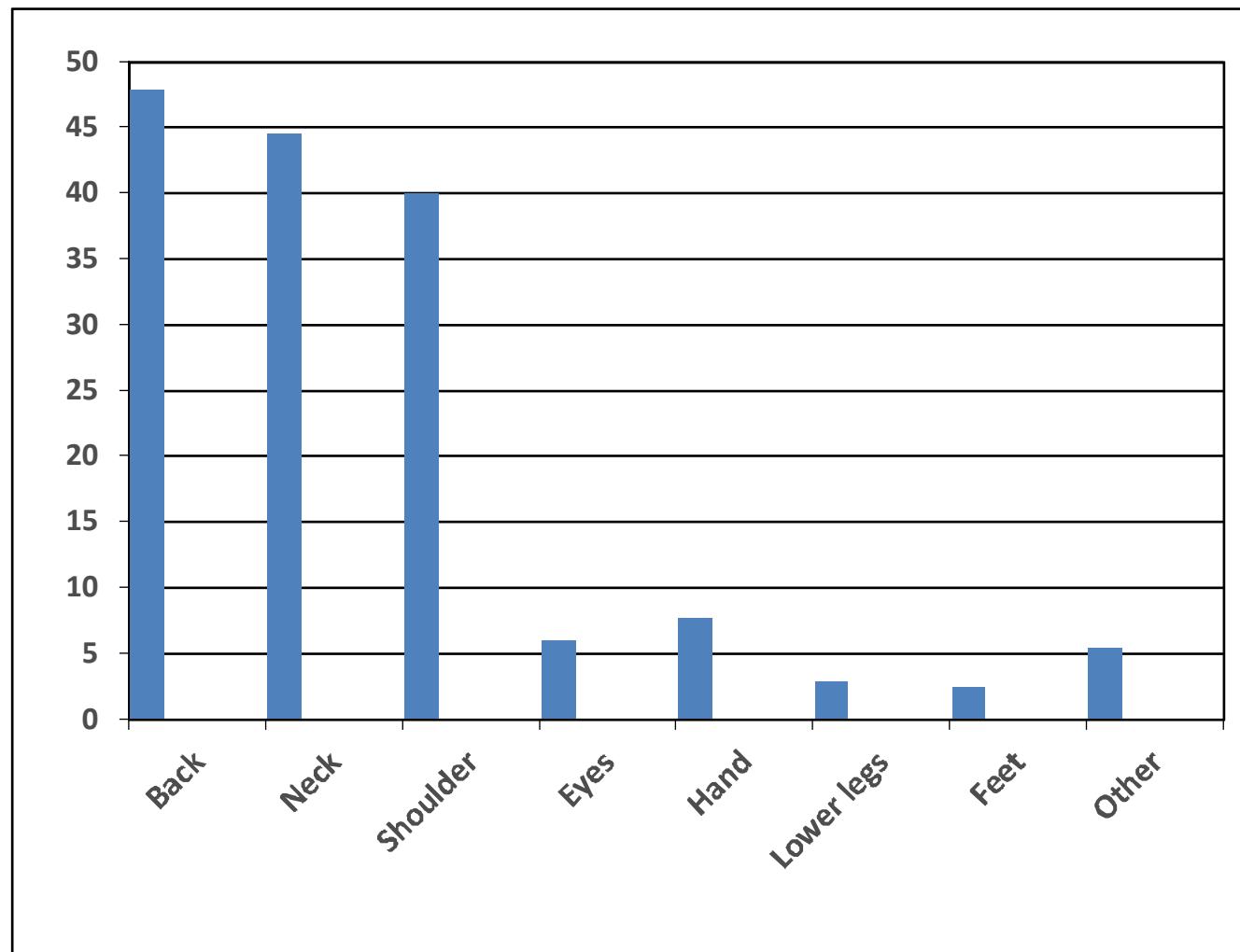
Forschungsinstitut für die zahnärztliche Versorgung (FZV)  
Stiftung der Kassenzahnärztlichen Bundesvereinigung

**The complaints concentrate in head, neck, shoulder  
and back:  
64% back- and 42% headache**



# Kerschbaum, 2000

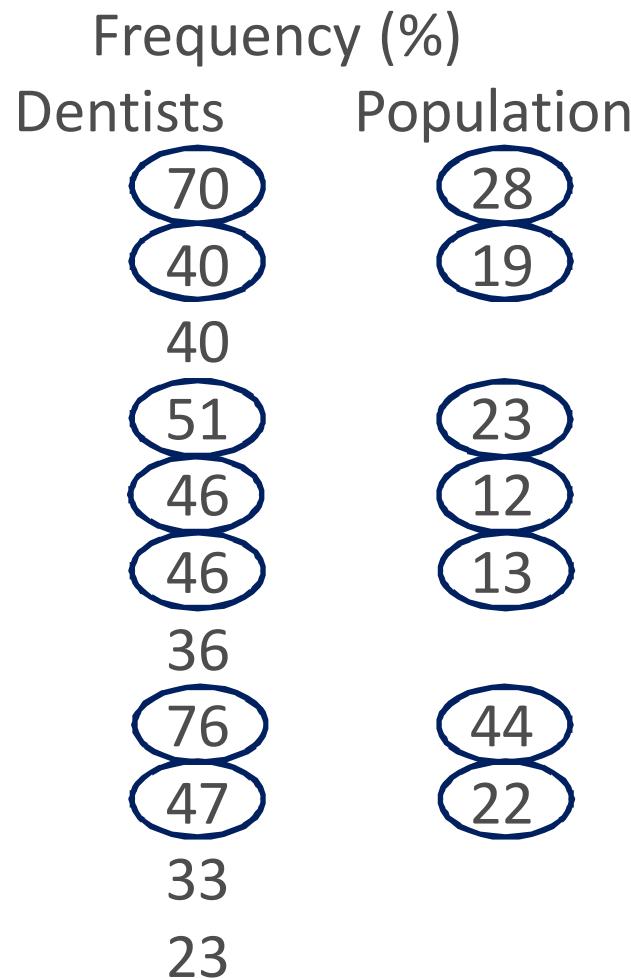
N = 450 Dental Chamber North-Rhine



# Hjalmers 2006

Sweden: N = 170

- Tired without direct cause
- Headache
- Eye fatigue
- Sleep disturbances
- Fearful, anxious, nervous
- Unmotivated, sad
- Stomach-aches
- Back-/neck-/shoulder pain
- Joint pain
- Deaf hands
- White fingers



# **University of San Francisco (2006)**

**1. - 3. Study year: 70%,  
in extension and intensity!**



**Are Dentistry and Back Pain  
linked like Coal Mining and Silicosis?**

**YES!**  
for the moment

**however .....**



european society of dental ergonomics

Since 2006 there are the

with the result .....

**Ergonomic requirements for dental equipment.**

Guidelines and recommendations for  
designing, constructing and selecting dental equipment.



Prof O. (Oene) Hokwerda,  
dentist and dental ergonomist

J. A. J. (Joseph) Wouters,  
registered occupational assessor and  
ergonomist

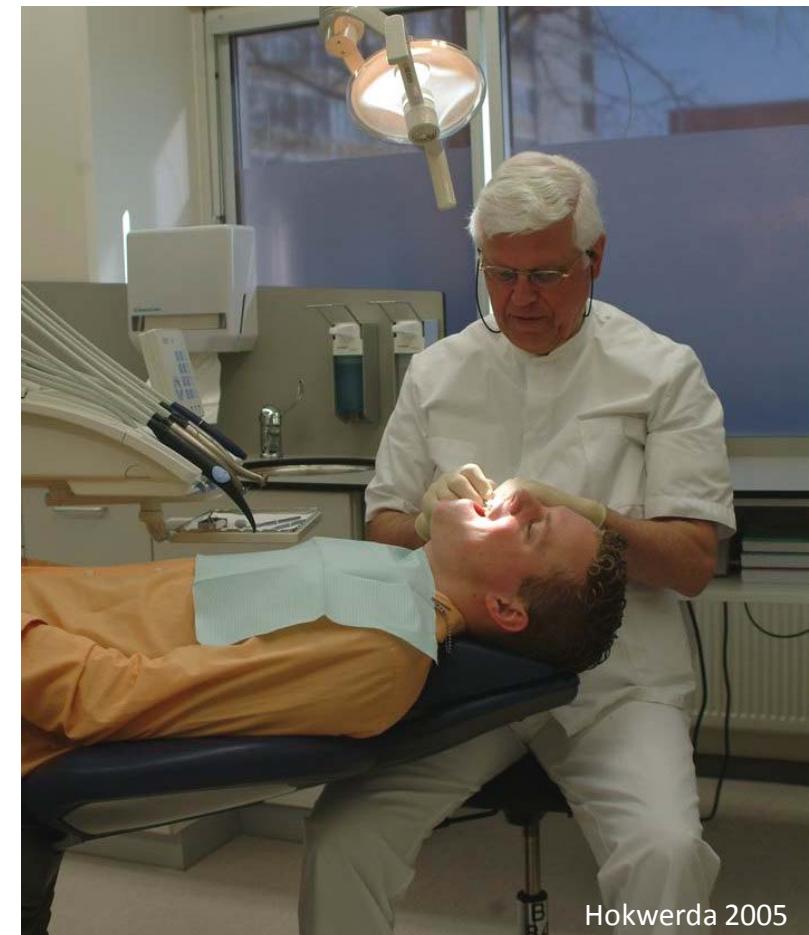
R. A. G. (Rolf) de Ruijter,  
dentist and in training as dental  
ergonomist

S (Sandra) Zijlstra-Shaw B.D.S.,  
dentist

**...., that dentist's stool, patient's head rest,  
OP-light and patient's chair - ergonomically  
regarded - need advanced development  
urgently!**

→ no ergonomically correct  
dental unit is available!

**Example: No appropriate dental  
unit is available for female  
dentists shorter as 155,7 cm and  
male dentists taller as 195,8 cm**



Hokwerda 2005

# **There is a dilemma**

## **Manufacturers say**

- Our products are designed optimally ergonomic
- Cause for the complaints is the wrong working posture of the professionals
- There is no explicit demand for ergonomically designed dental units

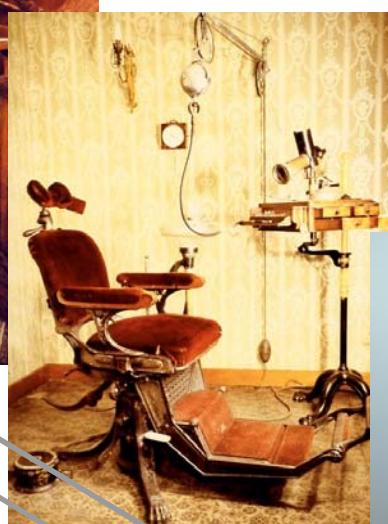
## **Universities say**

- There are no dental units on the market which fulfil the ergonomic requirements!

**Is there a solution?**

**YES, but know about history!**

# Status until ca. 1950/1960



Working Posture Problems ?

# In the Sixties: Developmental Revolution

Development of the turbine with spray coolant



„gas pump“



KaVo 1012

- Treatment at higher rotation speed
- Time saving, shorter treatments
- Higher efficiency
- Better sight
- Better results
- .....



- Careful and faster preparation
- Increasing patient demand

**Orthopantomograph OP1**

- Increasing patient demand



**Better working local anaesthesia**

- Increasing patient demand



**Rising welfare (and better social security benefits)**

→ Increasing patient demand

→ other working method

→ other working pace

→ Work stress

with „clear“ posture problems

## **Since ca. 1990 (e.g. in Germany)**

- Continuous new legislation
- Social security benefits cuts

## **Since the Economic Crisis 2008**

- Patient's insecurity
- Dentist's economic insecurity
- Dentist's competitive pressure

**Since Internet access  
Patient's needs and demand  
for comfort and communication**

**..... with own „competences“!**

**→ Work stress  
with „clearer“ posture problems**



# The „Golden Solution“

To work sitting on the laying patient



Four-Handed  
in „correct“ working posture

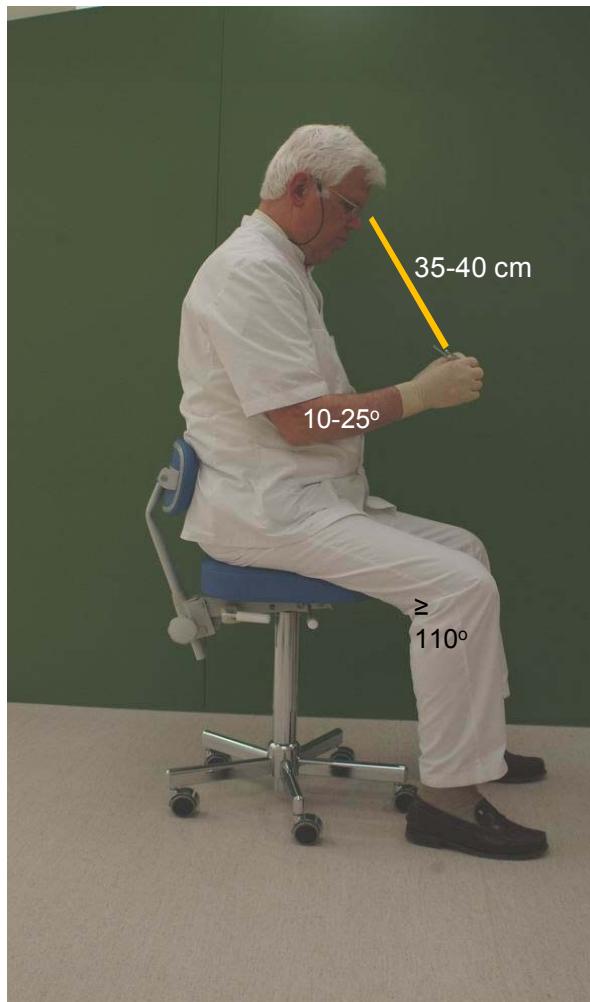
# Be aware!



# The „Ideal Working Posture“

... adapting to the “machine”?

Correct measures



All-symmetrical



# The „Ideal Working Posture“

active



passive



# Wrong working postures

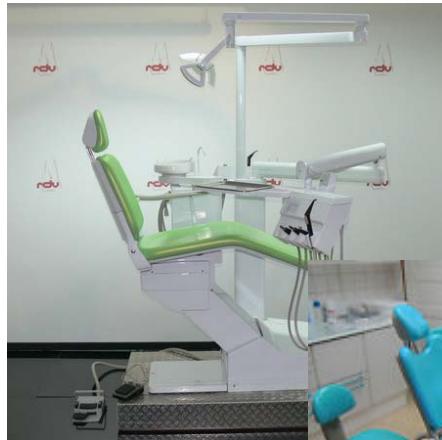


Hokwerda 2005



Hokwerda 2005

# What hardware developments occurred? until today technical, colour and design „only“



**with the consequence that**

- **Ergonomics as scientific discipline scarcely influenced the design of the dental working place**
- **the dental profession was left themselves without feedback to ergonomic principles**

# We remember!

## Hjalmers 2006

Sweden: N = 170

- Tired without direct cause
- Headache
- Eye fatigue
- Sleep disturbances
- Fearful, anxious, nervous
- Unmotivated, sad
- Stomach-aches
- Back-/neck-/shoulder pain
- Joint pain
- Deaf hands
- White fingers

|                              | Frequency (%) |            |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------|
|                              | Dentists      | Population |
| ■ Tired without direct cause | 70            | 28         |
| ■ Headache                   | 40            | 19         |
| ■ Eye fatigue                | 40            |            |
| ■ Sleep disturbances         | 51            | 23         |
| ■ Fearful, anxious, nervous  | 46            | 12         |
| ■ Unmotivated, sad           | 46            | 13         |
| ■ Stomach-aches              | 36            |            |
| ■ Back-/neck-/shoulder pain  | 76            | 44         |
| ■ Joint pain                 | 47            | 22         |
| ■ Deaf hands                 | 33            |            |
| ■ White fingers              | 23            |            |

**Neuhaus 2014:**

**Dissertation project  
Occupational loads and demands in the dental  
profession**

**Studie zur Erfassung arbeitsbezogener ergonomischer und  
psychosozialer Stressoren in Bezug auf das psychische  
Wohlbefinden und Beschwerden im Muskel-Skelett System**

# The first „patient contact“ (6<sup>th</sup> semester)



**FOCUS „Working Position“  
too narrow-minded?**

**YES,  
the FOCUS „Working Position“  
is too narrow-minded!**

Dentistry and Back Pain  
**still** look linked like Coal Mining and Silicosis

a broader concept is necessary!

**FOCUS „Health and Wellness“  
to avoid occupational diseases!**



**with conscious inclusion**

- **of labour protection**
- **structured ergonomic education & training**
- **systematic ergonomic research**
- **individually fitting organisation models for  
the dental profession**

**as vital complex to secure the health of the  
dental team**

**in terms of the shift from „machine“ to  
„man“ within the man-machine-system**

# LABOUR PROTECTION

- Europe:           Laws for health and safety on the working place
- Germany:          **Arbeitsschutzgesetz (ArbSchG)**  
                         Gesetz über die Durchführung von Maßnahmen des Arbeitsschutzes zur Verbesserung der Sicherheit und des Gesundheitsschutzes der Beschäftigte bei der Arbeit

**BuS-Service BZäK: „The Prevention Concept,“**

Betriebsärztliche und Sicherheitstechnische Beratung

→ **Obligations**

- ➔ **Obligation for welfare  
of dentists towards their personnel**
- ➔ **Obligation of welfare  
of the universities towards their students**  
in Germany: from the 7th semester on they should be  
employees according to 13 ZHG

**Exemplarily :**

**Rijksuniversiteit Groningen – Tandheelkunde**

# Health Care Questionnaire of the RUG

WS 2013/2014  
Gesundheitsfragenbogen für Studierende der Zahnmedizin  
im 1. vorklinischen Semester

Der Zahnarztberuf stellt hohe Anforderungen an die Gesundheit. Manche Gesundheitsprobleme lassen sich sehr schlecht mit diesem Beruf vereinen, andere sind mit einigen wenigen Hinweisen zu be-seitigen. Diese Fragenliste bezweckt Informationen über Ihren Gesundheitsstatus zu erhalten, insoweit diese für den Verlauf Ihres Studiums so relevant sind, dass Sie Ihren Beruf später ohne Schäden ausüben können.

Die Ergebnisse werden vertraulich behandelt und dienen vor allem dazu, dass Sie – wenn sich auffällige Resultate ergeben – entsprechend fachärztlich beraten werden.

Geschlecht                     männlich             weiblich

Alter .....  
.....

Bitte beachten:

- Der Fragebogen ist vom Datenschutzbeauftragter überprüft und genehmigt worden.
- Die Teilnahme an der Fragebogenaktion ist freiwillig.
- Zur Wahrung der Anonymität erfolgt die Rückgabe ausschließlich über den Semestersprecher/die Fachschaft.
- Offene Fragen bitte nur in Druckbuchstaben beantworten.
- Für den Eigenbedarf ist ein zweiter Bogen beim Semestersprecher/bei der Fachschaft erhältlich.

| Fragen in Bezug zu Ihrem Sehvermögen:   | nein                     | ja                       |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Haben Sie Sehbeschwerden (sogar wenn Sie eine Brille oder Kontaktlinsen tragen)?<br>Falls ja, beim Nahsehen?<br>beim Weitsehen ? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Sind Ihre Augen oft ermüdet oder „brennen“ Sie häufig?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Haben Sie oft Kopfschmerzen?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Haben Sie Probleme mit stereoskopischem - mit beiden Augen - Sehen?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Haben Sie ein „müdes Auge“?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Sind Sie wegen Schielen operiert worden?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Haben Sie sich je eine andere Augenoperation oder Laserbehandlung unterzogen?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



- **Less movement**
- **passive bend back**
- **incompetent to sit upright**
- **Visus problems**
- **Problems with body length and -imension**
- **Ignorance towards contact sport risks**

# **OBLIGED ERGONOMIC EDUCATION & TRAINING**

ADEE: Profile and Competences for the graduating European Dentist (2009)

## DOMAIN I: PROFESSIONALISM

### **Major Competence: Professional Attitude and Behaviour**

On graduation, a dentist must be competent in a wide range of skills, including investigative, analytical, problem solving, planning, communication, and presentation skills and has to demonstrate a contemporary knowledge and understanding of the broader issues of dental practice. The dentist should understand the relevance of these issues, including research, team building and leadership skills in clinical dental practice.

#### ***Supporting Competences***

**On graduation, a dentist must:**

*be competent at:*

- (1.1) displaying an appropriate caring behaviour towards patients.
- (1.2) displaying appropriate professional behaviour towards all members of the dental team.
- (1.3) seeking continuing professional development (CPD) allied to the process of continuing education on an annual basis, in order to ensure that high levels of clinical competence and evidence-based knowledge are maintained. This should be readily demonstrated through the use of a CPD logbook/portfolio.
- (1.4) managing and maintaining a safe working environment, working with other members of the dental team with regard to health and safety and clinical risk management. In particular, with reference to working posture, visual perception, instrument handling, use of equipment, dealing with mental aspects and stress, and all aspects of cross-infection control.
- (1.5) social and psychological issues relevant to the care of patients.

*have knowledge of:*

- (1.6) and awareness of the importance of his/her own health in relation to occupational hazards and its impact on the ability to practice as a dentist.
- (1.7) the management of a dental practice by planning, organizing and leading the practice team.

### **Major Competence: Ethics and Jurisprudence**

On graduation a dentist must display knowledge of the content and have a thorough understanding of the moral and ethical responsibilities involved in the provision of care to individual patients, to populations and communities. The dentist must display knowledge of contemporary laws applicable to the practice of dentistry.



european society of dental ergonomics

## **ESDE: Curriculum and Timetable**

**Physical, cognitive and organisational ergonomics**

**Romania: National Ergonomic University Network (2004)**

**NKLZ: National Competence-based Catalogue of Learning Objectives in Dentistry (2014)**

**RWTH Aachen University:**  
**Lecture cycle „Labour Medicine for Dentists“ (2010)**

**Needed: Teacher training  
with career perspectives!**

# **SYSTEMATIC ERGONOMIC RESEARCH**

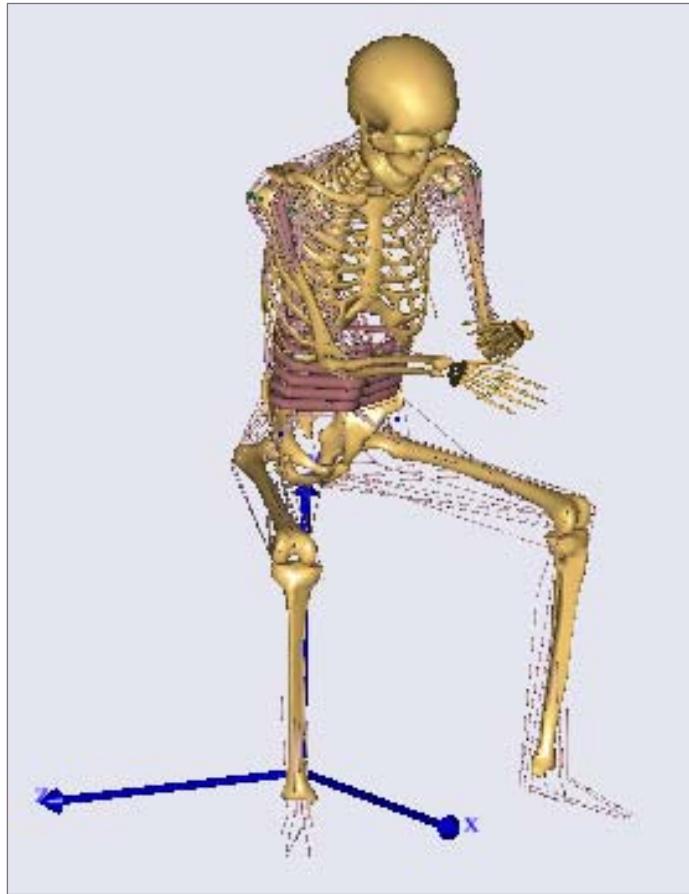
**A lot has been performed**

- Schön, Wagner, Hilger, Rohmert,  
Neddermeier, Reitemeier, Hokwerda, usw.
- Dissertations (questionnaires)

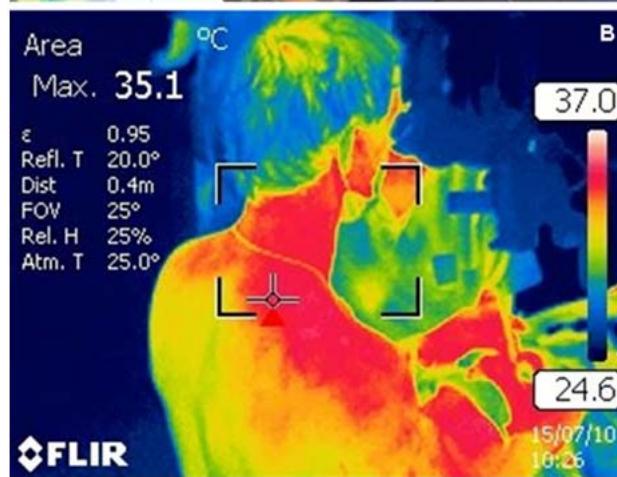
**Evidence-based, reliable, valid?**

**Needed: Academisation**

in university research facilities to initiate research like, for example, .....



Virtual Reality Group/RWTH Aachen  
Technical University Timisoara/RO



Medical Faculty RWTH Aachen  
Medical University Bucharest/RO

# **INDIVIDUALLY FITTING ORGANISATION MODELS** **FOR THE DENTAL PROFESSION**

- Patient care
- Management

**Quality management (ISO 9000 and 9001/x)  
in terms of ergonomic demands**

(physical, cognitive and organisational ergonomics)

➔ that is: a biopsychosocial work load model  
to avoid the typical occupational risks ....

**to secure „egoistically“**

- the health of our dental team
- the joy of our profession and its future
- the time for ourselves, our partner, family
- wellness

**→ Work Life Balance**

**→ Conclusion: Dentistry and Back Pain are as little linked  
like Coal Mining and Silicosis!**

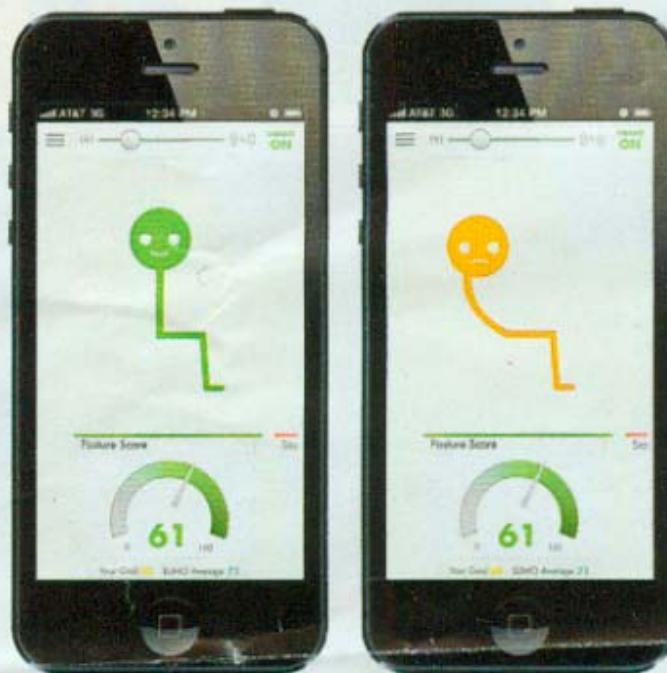


# Be aware! If you are still dominated by the “machine” there are supports!

## NO SLOUCHING!

‘This is brilliant!’ exclaimed my husband when he tried the Lumoback, a slim sensor waistband that monitors your posture. Slouch and it vibrates to remind you to straighten up. It connects wirelessly to an app, which tracks your movements, calories burnt and time spent sitting and standing. Change small bad habits and you should improve health generally. Buy the sensor waistband, £129.95, from [store.apple.com/uk](http://store.apple.com/uk), then download the app.

Email your questions to [sarah@sarahstacey.com](mailto:sarah@sarahstacey.com)





## Axia Smart Chair

bma products

# **Can this T-shirt stop you hunching? £105 top with secret elastic strips promises to relieve back pain and improve posture**



**best suitable for dental practise use ?**



**German Academy of Dental Ergonomics**  
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**Arbeitsgemeinschaft „Arbeitswissenschaft und Zahnheilkunde“**  
der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Zahn-, Mund- und Kieferheilkunde

# Thank you!

[www.dgzmk.de/dgzmk/fachgruppierungen/arbeitswissenschaft-und-zahnheilkunde](http://www.dgzmk.de/dgzmk/fachgruppierungen/arbeitswissenschaft-und-zahnheilkunde)  
[www.owidi.de](http://www.owidi.de)

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