

Home

UK CLAIMS FOR IMPLANT TREATMENT RISE BY 41%

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015



A recently published article in the Dental Defence Union's (DDU) digital journal has revealed a marked increase in the number of claims for compensation against dental professionals for dental implant procedures in the UK.

The data covered the period 2004–2013, and included 311 claims relating to dental implants. There was a 41% increase in the number of claims recorded between 2009 and 2013, compared with 2004–2008. Researchers found that the most common reason for the claims, from over one third of claimants, was 'failure of treatment'. The second most common reason was 'unsatisfactory treatment'.

Of the 311 claims included in the data, 115 were settled for an approximate total figure of £4 million (5.5 million Euros). The average amount of compensation paid to claimants on behalf of dental professionals was just under £30,000 (41,600 Euros). The largest compensation pay-out was over £242,000 (335,000 Euros) – made to a patient who was left with nerve damage after implants failed.

The DDU provided useful advice in light of their findings to help ensure that dentists and implant specialists mitigate any risks involved. This included:

- always obtaining a detailed patient history and being aware of the contraindications for implant treatment (for instance untreated periodontal disease, immunosuppression or smoking)
- clearly explaining the benefits, risks and alternatives (including no treatment) to the patient as part of the consent process – and recording this
- giving patients a cooling-off period to consider their decision
- recognising the limits of your clinical skills. If you lack the necessary training or experience for complex cases, offer referral to a periodontist, oral surgeon or restorative dentist
- keeping a log of implant patients at your practice to ensure appropriate recall intervals are maintained and that enough time is allocated for appointments

A spokesperson for the DDU emphasised the importance of dental professionals being aware of any potential risks in offering dental implants as a treatment plan, despite the procedure's effectiveness.

MEMBERSHIP



ANNUAL CONGRESS



PUBLICATIONS



ORDERING BOOKLETS



LOCATE YOUR NEAREST DENTIST EAO MEMBER

City

Country

GO

PATIENT INFORMATION



EAO)))
CONGRESS
25TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING
PARIS 2016