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### **Special print**





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#### Worldwide survey on the preferred method of prevention

A clean mouth is not only important for oral health, but also for health in general. With Guided Biofilm Therapy (GBT), EMS has developed a systematic, modular, scientifically proven protocol for oral prophylaxis together with universities, clinicians and the Swiss Dental Academy (SDA). Of the more than 76,000 patients surveyed worldwide, more than 92% are enthusiastic about the GBT method and will recommend it to family and friends.

Due to the high burden of disease, the WHO (World Health Organization) has declared oral diseases, including caries and periodontitis, as a key health problem [1,2]. The World Dental Federation (FDI) also highlights the importance of a healthy mouth for general and systemic health in its "Vision 2030" [3]. In addition to a healthy lifestyle, the microbial dental plaque (biofilm) must be removed effectively by daily oral hygiene and

through regular professional mechanical plaque removal (PMPR) [4,5]. To achieve an effective and gentle PMPR, the dental team should apply modern methods, instruments, and materials [6,7]. Prevention-oriented practices therefore surveyed more than 76,000 patients worldwide through questionnaires to determine the preferred method for professional prophylaxis.



Guided Biofilm Therapy is an evidence-based, indication-oriented, systematic, modular prophylaxis protocol for prevention and therapy in dentistry.

#### **Comparison of methods**

Guided Biofilm Therapy (GBT) is based on the classic long-term recall of the Swedish dentist Dr. Per Axelsson [8]. As early as the 1970s, he and his team were able to demonstrate in a large group of patients that no teeth are lost to caries or periodontitis if preventive care is consistently performed well into old age. GBT is a further development of this standardized and systematic concept, using new findings and technologies. The protocol can be adapted to all patient groups and clinical findings according to risk [9,10]. The methods involved in GBT have been documented in numerous scientific studies [11-17]. After mandatory disclosure, the objective of GBT is to achieve the most complete and minimally invasive removal of biofilm possible from all oral surfaces [18].

Disclosure is intended for individual patient motivation and the targeted professional removal of biofilm. The biofilm is removed supra- and subgingivally with AIRFLOW® PLUS Powder (based on erythritol) in a minimally invasive manner using AIR-FLOWING® and PERIOFLOW®. [19]. If necessary, a practically painless piezoceramic ultrasonic instrument (PIEZON® PS NO PAIN Instrument) is used for any residual hard deposits (calculus). In contrast, the "conventional PMPR procedure" focuses on the removal of hard deposits, very often with invasive sonic or hand instruments [19,20]. Subsequently, the tooth surfaces are treated with rotating brushes or silicone cups using abrasive polishing pastes. This polishing abrades superficial tooth substance and leaves polishing paste on the surface [21]. The conventional method does not involve applying a system. The biofilm is usually not disclosed before treatment [22] as removal of the disclosed biofilm would require significantly more time (Chéserex, Switzerland, 2018).

#### Analysis of the questionnaires

The questionnaires answered by patients (n = 76,338) consisted of 8 questions, including the overall assessment of GBT, the surface smoothness achieved, the usefulness of disclosure before starting the treatment and a direct comparison with the conventional method (diagrams). The anonymized questionnaires were provided to EMS by preventionoriented practices and clinics. GBT achieved very good results in all the questions illustrated, scoring 4.6 or 4.7 out of a possible 5 points in each case. For the questions about the duration of the treatment and its recommendation, which are not illustrated, the average score was 4.7 out of 5 points.







Over 98% of patients reported experiencing no unpleasant pain during treatment or that the pain was less than with conventional treatment (overall average 4.6).

#### **Discussion and Conclusions**

More than 92% of respondents prefer Guided Biofilm Therapy compared to the old method (score 4 or 5 points). This is consistent with previously published studies from practice and academia on patient acceptance and satisfaction [6,7,23]. GBT is suitable for both primary preventive PMPR as well as secondary preventive periodontitis and peri-implantitis therapy, depending on the risk and need. Due to its unique scientific documentation and clinical suitability compared to other methods, the concept is recommended by numerous renowned experts [24-26].

"If integration of a new therapy is to be considered, it either has to be superior in therapy outcome or has to show other relevant advantageous aspects such as patient preference or operator convenience or economy of time or other resources." [17]

Listl and Birch, 2013

The results of the extensive patient survey presented here speak very clearly in favor of Guided Biofilm Therapy compared to conventional treatment. To date, no data of this magnitude have been published. Analyses of other surveys conducted among smaller groups of respondents show the same trend as the global survey presented here [7,23].

And finally, it should be noted that the benefits of GBT are not limited to achievable patient satisfaction and the associated high recall adherence rate. As demonstrated in high-level studies, GBT is ergonomically optimized, significantly more effective, at the same time more time-saving and more economical compared to conventional methods [19,27,28,29,30]. It can therefore be implemented particularly efficiently and successfully by the dental prophylaxis team. ■



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#### The GBT-certified practice - how to proceed

Those who wish to perform prophylaxis at the highest level can have their practice GBT-certified. EMS offers comprehensive training for the practical implementation of high-quality GBT through the Swiss Dental Academy (SDA), as well as in-depth training in orthodontics, periodontology and implantology. In addition, practice marketing is effectively supported, for example, through an online directory of GBT-certified practices (GBT Finder) and high-quality materials for patient communication.

For more information on GBT certification please visit: https://gbt-dental.com/ZMK0422-PS-ENG





DENTALFORUM



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# PATIENTS LOVE GBT

«GUIDED BIOFILM THERAPY» GBT IS AN EVIDENCE-BASED, CLINICAL, INDICATION-ORIENTED, MODULAR, PREVENTIVE AND THERAPEUTIC PROTOCOL FOR ALL ORAL APPLICATIONS.

