LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Response to arsenic trioxide in dental treatment

To the Editor

We thank Dr Ghabili et al, Arsenicals for dental and gingival diseases in medieval Persia, J Formos Med Assoc, 2013, 59-60 for their interest in our recently published article in J Formos Med Assoc. Dr Ghabili et al supposed that arsenical use in dental treatment should be dated back to long before Biblical times. We agree with their opinion, as the Greeks, Romans and Chinese used boiling oil, herbs, opium, and arsenic to desiccate dental pulp earlier. One of the main objectives of our article, is to review the written dental history of arsenic paste in endodontic practice; many dental articles generally agreed that the history of arsenic trioxide in endodontic treatment started with its recommendation for use as a devitalizing agent by Haly Abbas (died ca. 994) in 1492. Thank you very much for your advice.

References


Chen Gin
Department of Dentistry, Taichung Veterans General Hospital, 160, Taichung Kang Road, Sec 3, Taichung 40705, Taiwan
E-mail address: kam@vghtc.gov.tw

31 October 2012