



**PICK UP YOUR
LATEST BRITANNICA
CD-ROM DISC FROM
TESCO OR WHSMITH**

DETAILS: PAGE 69

Deflated charges at the blow-up dental surgery

Travelling Hungarians offer half-price treatment in UK

By Jaya Narain

THE first inflatable dentist surgery is set to tour Britain undercutting the hefty prices charged by private dentists.

Hungarian practitioners using the latest equipment will offer treatments for half the price of their UK counterparts.

Such is the team's confidence, they believe the whistle-stop tour of major towns and cities will attract thousands of patients who have been unable to register with an NHS dentist or cannot afford to travel abroad for treatment.

Around 40,000 'dental tourists' each year travel to Hungary, Poland, Turkey and Bulgaria, and even as far afield as India and Thailand, to take advantage of the low-cost, high-quality treatment available there.

Most dental treatments in Hungary cost as little as a third of the average price charged by private dentists in the UK. The mobile surgery will initially offer a full consultation with X-rays and

'Comparable to Harley Street'

advice from five Hungarian dentists registered with the General Dental Council.

Chris Hall, managing director of Hungarian Dental Travel, said: 'The dentists will carry out a full examination and then advise the patients on what treatment they require and organise a price plan for them.'

Hygiene and safety standards will be exactly the same as at a more orthodox surgery, he added.

It will travel around England and Scotland, stopping off in Glasgow, London, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Lincoln and Stockport.

Mr Hall, 38, said: 'Hungary has become the dentistry capital of the world and treatment is still a great deal cheaper there than in the UK.'

'We get a lot of people coming to us who cannot afford to pay for treatments in Britain or who aren't happy with the standard of care.'

'The mobile surgery means patients can find out what treatment they will need and what the likely cost will be.'

The standard of the treatment



Watch those walls with your drill: Chris Hall in the inflatable surgery

HOW HUNGARY AND BRITAIN COMPARE...

	Hungarian Price	Average UK private dental price*	Hungarian Price	Average UK private dental price*
Crown	£195	£750	Tooth implant	£700
White Filling	£52	£150	Bridge	£600
Extraction	£35	£90	General Anaesthetic	£360 an hour
Veneer	£220	£500 - £1000	Root Canal	£100
*Sample of five dentists				
				Average UK private dental price*
				£2500
				£2000
				£560 an hour
				£250

carried out by the dentists was comparable to some of the top Harley Street practitioners, Mr Hall added.

'We only use the highest grade materials when we are dealing with our patients that cost an arm and a leg for patients in the UK,' he said.

'We often have people come to us who say they have been quoted prices of around £25,000 and we are able to provide the same treatment to the same, if not higher, standards for around £7,500.' Hungarian Den-

tal Travel, which was set up in Aulburn, near Lincoln, four and a half years ago, takes more than 20 patients to Hungary each month.

However, it expects an explosion in numbers in the coming months. The inflatable surgery, which took a year to develop, is also equipped with an X-ray gun and shield, never before used in the UK.

The dental market is still reeling from major reforms made to it in the past few years. In 2006, the Government introduced contracts for

NHS dentists, claiming they would improve access to treatment.

However, the deal was so unpopular that a tenth of dentists refused to sign it, and left the NHS for the more lucrative private market.

The latest figures for England released last month show that 27 million - 53.3 per cent of the population - were seen by an NHS dentist in the past two years - 1.1 million down on those seen before the contracts were introduced.

j.narain@dailymail.co.uk