Abstract: Dentin hypersensitivity is defined as a short, sharp pain arising from exposed dentin in response to stimuli which cannot be ascribed to any other form of dental defect or pathology. These stimuli are typically thermal, evaporative, tactile, osmotic or chemical. Recent research reveals that 88% of dental professionals believe dentin hypersensitivity can affect patients’ quality of life, and 79% believe the condition is on the rise. Despite this, many dental professionals do not routinely screen patients for the condition, causing it to regularly go undiagnosed. Subsequently sufferers may alter their behaviour to avoid the pain. This may include neglecting oral hygiene, failing to comply with oral care instructions or avoiding dental visits – all of which can increase the risk of dental complications.

The diagnosis of dentin hypersensitivity can be very challenging for the dental professional. It is important to conduct a thorough differential diagnosis of the dental pain to exclude the other possible causes, such as leaking restorations or fractured dentition.

There are different options to treat dentine hypersensitivity that can be divided in at-home treatments, those the patient can apply, and in-office treatments, those applied by the dentist. In this article; the most recently diagnosing tools and treatments will be described in detail.