



BITE SIZE EDUCATION

An interactive study club

Course Topic: “My Patient is too complicated for Aligners”
Date: Tuesday 10 February 2026
Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm (Access and refreshments from 6:00pm)
Venue: The Training Room, Cirencester Dental Practice, The Old Post Office,
12 Castle Street, Cirencester, GL7 1QA
Contact: Tel: 01285 640248 / zoe@cirencesterdentalpractice.com
CDP: 2 hours verifiable
Tutor(s): Dr Ross Cutts & Dr Gavin Ho Fat
Educator: Dr Mark Burton

“My Patient is too complicated for Aligners”:

Treatment planning strategies and auxiliaries to manage complex cases with aligners

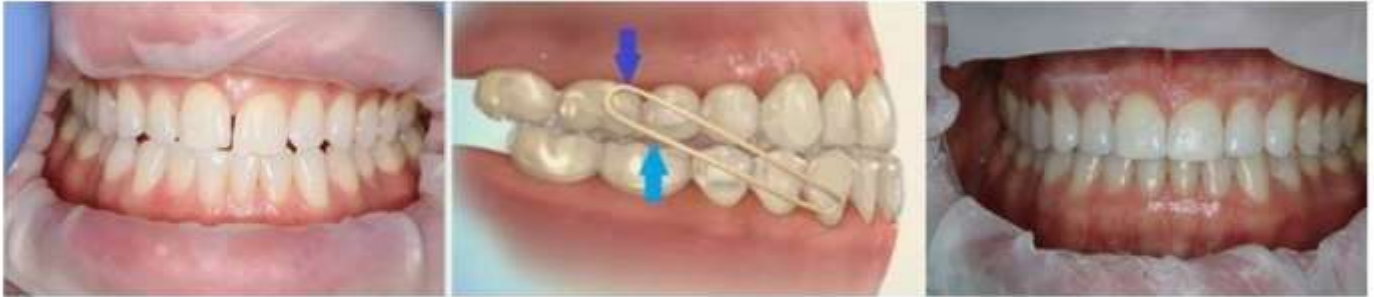
Course Aims:

- To equip clinicians with evidence-based strategies for planning and executing orthodontic treatment using aligners in complex cases—including those involving challenging movements, anatomical limitations, or interdisciplinary needs.
- To demystify the perception that certain patients are “too complicated” for aligner therapy by presenting practical workflows, decision-making frameworks, and appropriate auxiliary options that enhance predictability and outcomes.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this talk, participants will be able to:

- **Identify key diagnostic features** that influence the feasibility and complexity of aligner therapy in moderate-to-advanced cases.
- **Understand common limitations of aligners** (e.g., root torque, vertical control, severe rotations, anchorage demands) and how to anticipate them during treatment planning.
- **Develop structured treatment-planning strategies** that improve predictability, including staging, attachment design, and force-system optimization.
- **Select and integrate appropriate auxiliaries**—such as elastics, TADs, sectional fixed appliances, bite ramps, and optimized attachments—to manage challenging movements.
- **Recognize when hybrid treatment approaches** (aligners combined with fixed appliances or limited brackets) can enhance control without compromising patient comfort or aesthetics.
- **Evaluate case progression effectively** and make informed refinements using objective criteria and digital treatment tools.
- **Improve patient communication** regarding expectations, compliance, and the rationale behind auxiliary use in complex aligner treatments.



Tutor(s):



Dr Mark Burton

BDS Hons (Lond) PG Dip (Primary Dental Care), FID, MSc Dent Imp (Bris)
GDC No.: 251324

Having graduated from Kings College London, Mark worked in practice in Kent before relocating to Gloucestershire in 2015 to join our team at both Cirencester and Stow-on-the-Wold Dental Practices.

Mark has a keen interest in restorative and aesthetic dentistry and is a firm believer in taking a holistic, preventative and patient-centred approach to dental care. He is highly motivated to use the most modern techniques in order to help patients to achieve and maintain healthy mouths as well as to help those that never thought they could have a beautiful smile.

Since graduating, Mark has completed a postgraduate diploma in Primary Dental Care with a primary focus in Periodontology (gum disease) and Endodontics (Root Canal Treatment).

Mark has completed the MSc Implantology Programme at University of Bristol and is now a member of the International Team for Implantology and has gained significant experience in single and multiple implant cases with a variety of grafting needs. He has extensive experience of using Digital Workflow for implant-based and tooth-borne restorations and fixed and removable orthodontic systems.

He has a special interest in Orthodontics and is trained and experienced with a range of fixed and removable clear orthodontic systems – recently Mark has been asked to contribute as a key opinion leader for the Clear Correct Aligner system. He enjoys combining these with tooth whitening techniques to give patients the straighter, whiter smile that they seek.

Having trained in facial aesthetics, Mark enjoys helping patients enhance their complexion by reducing wrinkles and unsightly lines, or gaining volume which has been lost as part of the natural process of aging. He continues to attend courses from highly regarded clinicians on all aspects of dentistry in order to expand his knowledge.

Away from the practice, Mark is a keen cricketer who plays for local club side Poulton CC.



Dr Ross Cutts

BDS (Lond) Dip Imp Dent RCS (Eng) MClintDent Fixed and Removable Prosthodontics (KCL Lond) with Distinction
GDC No.: 78162

Having Graduated from Guy's Hospital, London in 2000, I am a dentist with Special Interests in Implant Dentistry and Advanced Restorative Procedures.

I began my Implant journey in 2003 and have subsequently attended extensive Higher Education across the United Kingdom, Europe and North America from the world leaders in Implant Dentistry.

I have been awarded the highly regarded Diploma in Implant Dentistry from the Royal College of Surgeons, London and have followed this by successfully gaining a Masters in Clinical Dentistry from Kings College London in Fixed and Removable Prosthodontics with distinction. This is my commitment to myself and my patients to ensure I can provide the broadest range of treatments available for maximum patient success.

I am a committed Fellow of the International Team for Implantology (ITI) –a past Study Club Director and Study Club Co-Ordinator for the whole of the UK and Ireland and remain a clinical mentor for this Worldwide Organisation.

I regularly hold educational courses, lecture nationwide and in Europe on a variety of topics at different educational levels, with a particular interest in Aesthetic Implant Dentistry. As well as educating others I am regularly asked to write up cases for Straumann and Botiss Worldwide Implant companies to demonstrate successful patient outcomes.

I accept referrals from colleagues for a variety of complicated clinical situations at both my Cirencester and Stow-on-the-Wold Dental Practices.

As well as being a fellow of the ITI (one of only 48 in the whole of UK and Ireland), I am also a member of the Association of Dental Implantology (ADI) and the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS). My commitment to Cosmetic / Aesthetic Dentistry maintains my Full Membership of the British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (BACD).



Dr Gavin Ho Fat

BDS (Newcastle), M Imp Dent (RCSEd)
GDC No.: 103457

Having graduated from Newcastle University in 2006 with a clinical distinction and an additional award for composites, Gavin spent 8 years initially in NHS and then fully private practice in London. In 2014, Gavin and his wife Kirsty decided to relocate to the Cotswolds, and he has been working at both Cirencester and Stow-on-the-Wold Dental Practices ever since.

Gavin has invested heavily in further post graduate education to deliver more complex techniques to achieve the best possible long term outcomes for his patients.

He has a specialised interest in dental implants and all aspects of complex restorative dentistry, developing extensively over the last 15 years - gaining lots of experience and clinical expertise in this highly demanding and complex field.

Having passed a robust series of examinations, he is now one of a few dentists to be recognised as a Member of Implant Dentistry by the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh.

Gavin takes a holistic, multidisciplinary approach to treating his patients using the latest digital techniques.

He has a calm and sympathetic manner, and works very well with nervous patients. For very phobic patients who struggle with dental visits, Gavin works very regularly with our in-house Sedationist.

In addition to treating patients, Gavin is involved in delivering further education and training for other dentists to improve their knowledge and clinical skills in implants, surgery and restorative dentistry.

Some examples of his work can be found on Instagram @drgavinhofat

Outside of dentistry, Gavin has a keen interest in travel, sport and food. In a former life, he was a regular snowboarder, cycled Lands End to John O'Groats, ran a sub-4 hour marathon and enjoyed travelling the world. However, Gavin and his wife's time is now spent mostly juggling family life with 4 young children and a dog.