INTRODUCTION
The purpose of this practice-based evaluation was to assess the handling of a 5% Sodium Fluoride clear mint-flavoured varnish (Clinpro™ White Varnish, 3M™ ESPE™, Seefeld, Germany) by general dental practitioner (GDPs) members of a UK-wide Practice-Based Research Group (P-BRG) the PREP (Product Research and Evaluation by Practitioners) and their hygienists.
The PREP Panel was established in 1993, has presently 32 members and has published 42 papers (12 in peer-reviewed journals) reporting handling evaluations and clinical trials carried out by the Group.

METHOD
Fifteen GDP members of the PREP panel were chosen at random to receive packs of 50 sachets of the material with full instructions for use over a ten-week period. Also included was a questionnaire designed to evaluate their current fluoride varnish usage, and the presentation, instructions, dispensing, ease of use and patient acceptability of the new material. Most responses were given on visual analogue scale (VAS).

MATERIAL
Fig 1. Clinpro White Varnish single-use sachet

RESULTS
Background Information
Questionnaires were returned by all fifteen GDPs, and six hygienists. 93% (n=14) normally used a fluoride varnish for the treatment of dentinal hypersensitivity, with typical usage in a typical week shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of applications</th>
<th>Number of evaluators</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>5 (33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>8 (54%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;10</td>
<td>2 (13%)</td>
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Ease of use, good results and long familiarity were the main reasons for choice of the currently used fluoride varnish. The main disadvantage of the current material was stated to be the colour by 8 (54%) of the evaluators.

9 (60%) of the evaluators knew the %fluoride concentration of their current varnish.
The ease of use of the currently used fluoride varnish (on a VAG where 1= difficult and 5= easy) was as shown below:

Evaluation of Clinpro White Varnish
The presentation of the material and the instruction guide were rated as follows (on a VAS where 1= poor and 5 = excellent);

a) Presentation

b) Instructions

All 100% of the GDPs and hygienists would recommend the product to colleagues.

CONCLUSION
The new fluoride varnish was well received in terms of the handling of the material and patient acceptability by both GDPs and hygienists.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
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