



Missing the wood for the trees – recent innovations of root canal instruments



Summer is fading away and I hope you all had a marvellous summer holiday. Back in the office, I am sure you have returned to a lot of advertising regarding new root canal instruments and improved strategies for canal preparations. Certainly, all of them are claimed to be the ultimate solution for your daily work. One will feel a bit guilty for having missed the unique opportunity to improve the daily work. Was it a mistake to enjoy the summer break for some weeks without spending any thoughts about endodontics? Certainly not!

In my previous editorial a year ago, I promised that we would be preparing some special issues covering only one specific topic each issue. Now you have the first special issue in your hands, which focuses on the current developments of root canal instruments. During the past year, more than a handful of different instruments have been introduced. Thus, some relevant background information and a critical assessment of the current trend towards single file systems are certainly required. Five different articles deal with different aspects of these new instruments and instrumentation concepts.

Well-known authors agreed to contribute to this issue and provide you with two up-to-date reviews on the concept of reciprocating single file instrumentation and the idea of the Self Adjusting File (SAF). It is a pleasure for us to present to you this information first hand, as both Ghassan Yared as well as Zvi Metzger are the inventors of these two

concepts. Moreover, the concept of a single file system used in full clockwise rotation is explained by Christian Gernhardt. Beside these reviews, a case series presented by Andreas Bartols is included to demonstrate the clinical implementation of some of the issues addressed in the reviews. His cases illustrate the clinical application of a reciprocating single file system.

And the next special issue is already in preparation! We hope that you will like this new concept of ENDO – Endodontic Practice Today and we would encourage you to share your thoughts with us. Perhaps these special issues are an incentive for you to share some interesting cases with us or to publish other interesting findings. All kinds of submissions are very welcome!

As for now, I hope you will enjoy the first special issue of ENDO and don't be afraid, after reading these contemporary reviews and articles you certainly won't be missing the wood for trees. I deeply hope that we were able to provide you with some ideas about the current trends in root canal instrumentation and the advantages and limitations of the new instruments available.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Schäfer'.

Edgar Schäfer