This article is not what you think it's going to be talking about. Most of the time the words “organized dentistry” refer to dentists joining organizations such as the American Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, and the one I serve as president, the American Academy of Facial Esthetics. These organizations are responsible for advocating expanding the rights and responsibilities of dentists and the dental industry and are essential to our everyday practices.

The organized dentistry I’m going to address is what happens inside your office. Organization and efficiency in your office and how you work day-to-day are very essential to things like overhead control and profitability. I have taught for years that the choices you make in products, techniques, and technology will directly affect the overhead percentage in your office. The more efficient you can be in your dental procedures, the more profitable your office becomes, and the better the patient experience. Let’s face it — people don’t like sitting in the dental chair ...

1. There are many choices in endodontic instruments. One of my new favorites is the Hyflex by Coltene-Whaledent. You know Coltene-Whaledent in the endodontic sphere because they offer a host of endodontic products, such as the hygienic line of gutta percha points and paper points, Gutta Flow, which is an outstanding canal sealer and filler, and now the Hyflex NiTi File System. This system is one of the strongest NiTi files on the market. After using these files for nearly a year, I couldn’t be more pleased with the results. File breakage with nickel titanium is nearly a thing of the past.

2. Electrosurge replacement — Electrosurge has been an outstanding instrument for many years, but there is no question that the time for lasers in dentistry has finally arrived. Gingival contouring can make your composite resin, veneer, and crown and bridge cases look much better. Lasers are now essential to every practice, especially in terms of patient satisfaction. This is exactly why you need a small diode laser in every treatment room. The one that has really opened up this potential is the Picasso Lite diode laser by AMD Lasers. I can’t wait to see their new hard and soft tissue laser!

3. DentalVibe Vibrapulse injection technology — One of the best and most comfortable ways to deliver local anesthesia is with a DentalVibe. You need to get this instrument for your patients. Not only does the DentalVibe make the patients’ experience so much better, but it also seems to help the anesthesia penetrate much faster, allowing me to begin dental procedures much more quickly, even with that unpredictable mandibular block.

4. Botox and dermal filler therapy — This has been the single biggest practice builder to come along in years. With the majority of states allowing dentists to perform Botox and dermal filler procedures, this is one of the fastest growing areas of dentistry. Botox and dermal fillers can be used for many dental therapeutic purposes such as TMJ, bruxism, orthodontic and prosthetics cases, as well as soft tissue facial esthetics for smoothing wrinkles and folds.

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