INTERVIEW
with — Dr. Domenico Massironi

Q: Developments in technology and materials have advanced the practice of prosthetic restoration. How has this field changed over the years?

A: Like all the medical sciences, prosthetic dentistry has changed over time in relation to the development of materials and technologies. A conservative attitude toward dental tissue has certainly been a positive development, as has the search for prosthetic materials to reduce thickness and to achieve excellent function and esthetics. The shift of the system from analog to digital with intraoral scanners and CAD/CAM technology has really brought the focus to innovation in the future.

Q: From your personal experience, how has workflow over the past several years been improved with new materials and simplified methods? Which materials do you use and why?

A: Before simplifying, we have to determine a procedure that leads to an excellent outcome. Certainly, in an increasingly competitive market and in the face of a global economic crisis, we have to look for high-quality products that aid the clinician in conducting standardized procedures for an excellent result: That guides my choice in the use of materials.

Q: How can you predict great results in prosthetic treatment, and how significant is tooth preparation as a step in prosthetic restoration?

A: The success of a prosthetic treatment—indeed, I think this can be applied to all fields of medicine—starts from the diagnosis. If we make a correct diagnosis, which is our obligation as clinicians, within the limits of our competence, then we will have good predictability of the outcome of the clinical procedure. I have devoted my life to scrupulous research of precision, and I believe that, in prosthetic work above all, it makes the difference.
Q: How important are magnifying instruments? Which microscope do you use and why?
A: I have been one of the pioneers in the use of the microscope since 1989. Its use has changed my way of treating clinical cases. Work under the microscope is very precise, but the first reason to use it is ergonomics—as I keep repeating to my students. A nearly 30-year collaboration with ZEISS has allowed me to bring my microscopy experience to the world and to create a center, the Master Educational Group (MEG), the only one of its kind.

Q: Please would you elaborate on the modified chamfer finish line? What is its rationale for esthetic and functional reasons, and what is the role of different restorative materials?
A: Every time I see my work after 20–30 years of follow-up, I see the same precision and stability over time, both from a functional and an esthetic point of view. I think I have acted in the spirit of good paternal families and that makes me proud. The modified chamfer design is part of a procedure I codified to seek to achieve excellence. It is a link in a chain that all together determines the longevity of the treatment result.

Prosthetic restoration entails teamwork with the dental technician regarding considerations on the choice of materials, thickness, brightness, etc. Without his or her help, the clinician cannot reach his or her goal.

Q: What role do rotating, oscillating and rounded chisel instruments play in the modified chamfer technique? Which rotating, oscillating and rounded chisel instruments do you use? Why would you recommend them?
A: Sonic instruments allow us to perform marginal deflection and repositioning without tissue trauma. That is why I think there is a good indication for these in the field of prosthetic dentistry.

Chisels allow us to better define the chamfer, making the margins clear and defined. New Hu-Friedy chisels will soon come out for the modified chamfer design.

Q: How significant is practical education? What makes hands-on courses such as the Tribune CME Clinical Masters Program so effective in advancing the skills of implantologists and general dentists?
A: I have devoted the most part of my life to teaching, through which I try to convey what I have learned, with great humility. Training is part of the profession and only continuous comparison can make us better. Meeting new students is a joy and I feel honored to have the opportunity to share my knowledge with them.

Q: Can you please tell us a little about MEG, your role at the institute and why it is important to you?
A: MEG is a center of excellence established by Dr. Carlo Ghezzi and me to seek to share our knowledge. Today, many courses for Italians and foreign students are held there, giving them the opportunity to learn about the state of the art of the various dental disciplines through a highly advanced technological system. Students are able to practice on their own phantom head under the microscope following the instructor’s steps on the monitor. MEG is a part of our life in the service of knowledge.

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