INTERVIEW with — Prof. Fabio Gorni

Q: You have been a practicing dentist for about 30 years now, with a specialization in endodontics and surgical endodontics. In your opinion, what has been the most important development in the field over the past three decades?
A: Endodontics is probably the dental specialty in which the most significant technological innovations have been introduced. The major innovations have encompassed instruments, materials and equipment. In terms of the improvement in instruments, rotary nickel-titanium (NiTi) files are the greatest innovation.

Regarding materials, bioceramic cements have to be taken into consideration, since they represent an enormous opportunity for the clinician. They can be used differently and have several applications, in particular treatment of severely compromised teeth. Nevertheless, we have to remember that the daily employment of magnification is one of the most important factors to be considered.

Q: Developments in technology and materials continue to influence the practice of endodontics. How has the way root canal treatment as practiced by endodontists changed over the years?
A: Certainly, these innovations have allowed therapeutic advances, for both patients and the dentist. In fact, it is possible to perform a faster and more predictable therapy. It is certainly possible to preserve dentinal tissue owing to minimally invasive shaping of the root canals, but it can still ensure proper cleaning and, last but not least, it is possible to save teeth that just a few years ago would have been extracted.

Q: Recently, a study conducted at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) demonstrated that using nanodiamonds to fortify gutta-percha could significantly improve outcomes in patients. Do you think this could be the obturation material of the future?
A: First of all, I would like to congratulate Profs. Dean Ho and No-Hee Park and their team at the UCLA School of Dentistry for the high quality and the innovation of their recent article. Without any doubt, we can say that gutta-percha has been the preferred material for root canal filling, even with the great necessity to reduce periapical infection and to improve the material stability.

In this research, the authors found a successful method by which to improve the manageability of gutta-percha, obtaining an apical seal similar to the conventional one. In addition, it is important to underline the relevance of the data relative to amoxicillin-enriched gutta-percha. The in vitro study proved that drug-reinforced nanodiamonds combined with gutta-percha effectively prevented bacterial growth. However, this innovation needs to be proven in a clinical study, with appropriate records and the necessary follow-up. In my opinion, bioceramic materials could bring about even greater advances in endodontics owing to their versatility.

Q: In the U.S., the majority of root canal treatment is performed by general dentists. Have these dentists adopted newer technologies, such as digital radiography and NiTi rotary instrumentation?
A: The innovation brought about by NiTi rotary instruments has been substantial and has changed daily practice both for the endodontist and for the general practitioner. In fact, it offers the possibility of obtaining a qualitatively good therapy in a short time. Digital radiography is not as relevant as NiTi rotary instruments are for achieving a successful therapy. However, 3-D radiography had a considerably positive impact on diagnostic methods. This method is based on a low radiation dose and increases the ability to make an accurate diagnosis, which guarantees a great result for the patient and a notable reduction of time for the operator.

Q: Could you tell us a little about Style Italiano Endodontics, your role within that community and why it is important to you?
A: Style Italiano, which has more than 100,000 followers, is the largest dental community in the world. It started as a restorative sharing group and the idea of

Style Italiano Endodontics was born from this body, less than six months ago. Style Italiano Endodontics is about to reach 35,000 followers.

The purpose is to give to modern dentists clear and accurate guidance and practical suggestions to apply during their daily treatment of patients. The three keywords that describe the philosophy of the group are “feasible,” “teachable” and “repeatable.”

Based on this idea, Style Italiano uses Facebook as a way to communicate all over the world and to share clinical cases with a large community of operators, so it becomes easier to make and to receive criticism and commentary.

This high visibility allows a dentist to share his or her work with a large number of people and compare it with many other ideas, so it can be regarded as an opportunity to learn and improve new techniques and share new and simple protocols. The main motto of the Style Italiano team is “you can do what we do”.

Q: What role do you think courses such as the Tribune CME Clinical Masters™ Program play in promoting the skills and expertise of endodontists and general dentists?
A: I think that, nowadays, dentistry needs to be based on techniques recognized and accepted by the scientific community worldwide.

The Tribune CME Clinical Masters™ Programs are held in the world’s largest cities, like San Francisco, Rio de Janeiro, Milan and Dubai, and they are led by some of the most prominent experts in dentistry. These courses offer “lifelong learning concepts for an ever-changing industry,” access to high-quality training institutes from anywhere, the possibility of practical training in the faculty’s own environment, and live mentoring sessions with experts and peers.

I believe that never before have such a large number of experts in various dental specialties been brought together to offer a program universally recognized as a certificate of excellence.

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