Biofilm is a dirty word
Thousands of bacteria strains deep down in the periodontal pocket are responsible for the development of various diseases. The magnitude is enormous and so is the need for periodontal disease management.

No need to mention the increased risk factor on systemic diseases such as diabetes, stroke or premature birth.

Swiss-based Electro Medical Systems (EMS) is well known for Air-Flow®, the original method for supragingival air polishing. Yet, too few dental professionals are aware of the unique subgingival application of this mix of powder and air.

"Air-Flow goes subgingival," says EMS, and brings the point home. A unique nozzle delivers the air-powder mixture deep into the pocket where rinsing water washes out the eliminated biofilm. The device and consumables go hand in hand for extraordinary results without any stress or risk for the patient, according to the company.

The patented single-use Perio-Flow nozzle has been especially designed for use in deep periodontal pockets (up to 10 mm). According to EMS, it creates optimum but gentle turbulence in subgingival areas and prevents soft-tissue emphysema via three horizontal nozzle outlets for air-powder mixture and one vertical nozzle outlet for water.

Abrasive — a bad idea?
There is also the Perio-Flow Method, and the company has specific features for its periodontal use. The glycine-based grain is extra-fine (25 µm). In addition, the grains have a particularly low specific density (d 50).

As a result, the original Perio-Flow Method is highly effective in the dental industry by leveraging Align’s global sales reach, extensive professional and consumer marketing capabilities and base of more than 55 thousand users.

“We are excited about the opportunities for growth that Cadent provides, not only in terms of accelerating adoption of intra-oral scanning among dental professionals but also in creating greater value for existing Invisalign users,” said Thomas M. Prescott, Align Technology president and chief executive officer.

As part of an ongoing program to evaluate interoperability of intra-oral scanning systems for future use with Invisalign treatment, Align is in final beta tests with Cadent's systems and expects to announce interoperability for their scanners in the second quarter of 2011.

Under the terms of the agreement, Align will pay approximately $190 million in cash in exchange for all shares of Cadent. The acquisition is subject to various standard closing conditions, including the expiration of the applicable waiting period under the Hart Scott Rodino Act (HSR) and is expected to close during the second quarter of 2011.
Dental health tools from Patterson Dental and Kids World Productions

In an effort to help kids and parents understand the importance of dental hygiene, Patterson Dental and Kids World Productions have created toothbrushes, stickers, flossers, timers and an entertaining book called My First Toothbrush: Quacky and Jackie Learn to Brush.

“Building a program with the irresistible, entertaining influence of the Quacky and Jackie characters associated with this product line, dental staffs have another tool for developing rapport with young patients and building a strong foundation for lasting relationships,” said Patterson Office Supplies Marketing Manager Kim McQueen.

“These unique characters make taking care of teeth fun and easy for kids and encourage proper life-long dental care.”

Kids World Productions President Dr. Don M. Newman emphasized that with the prevalence of childhood cavities and the effects on overall health, it is vital that dental health professionals and parents take action.

“It is well-documented that primary tooth decay increases the occurrence of decay in the secondary teeth,” he said. “Prevention is the best way to stop tooth decay.”

Dental practices can use the dental health tools shown here to develop rapport with young patients. (Photo/Provided by Patterson Dental)

When it comes to abrading harmful biofilm, but will not do any harm to the tooth surface or dentin, explains the company.

According to EMS, it is important to lay this misconception to rest: abrasion is not wrong, as long as, from the gingival crest to the deepest periodontal pockets, it has no adverse effects on the tooth.

A representative from EMS said that the company is very enthusiastic about the growing market acceptance of the Perio-Flow Method and that the company is proud to go beyond the boundaries of conventional periodontal disease management.

If your patients only knew

The wound surface of moderate periodontitis in the entire oral cavity equals the size of the palm of a hand. No wonder it affects the entire immune system, often with dramatic effects on the body as a whole.

Four out of five patients suffer from a form of periodontitis (50 percent severe).*

If they knew that periodontitis is the most common cause of tooth loss, wouldn’t they ask for a way to prevent it?

Implants, too, come loose with the withdrawal of bone tissue. According to EMS, regular prophylactic treatment with the original Perio-Flow Method is proven to prevent peri-implantitis and its costly aftermath.

Thus, the implant patient is and continues to be a patient, too.

* German Oral Health Survey, 2006