The extraction of a tooth is probably the most traumatic event a patient can experience in the dental surgery, and if the extraction doesn’t go smoothly, things can become quite stressful for the dentist too! When the use of a simple surgical instrument can make the extraction process infinitely easier for both patient and dentist, I find it surprising that not all dentists reach for a Directa Dental Luxator as their first instrument of choice.

To understand how best to remove a tooth, it helps to appreciate the structures and forces that are holding the tooth in position. It is only by overcoming these forces that the tooth can be removed.

First to consider is the bone structure surrounding the roots. As the bone sits intimately against the root surface, any irregularities, undercuts or curvatures of the root will provide mechanical retention. To overcome this retention the socket must be dilated until the path of removal of the root is unimpeded by bone.

The second factor resisting the removal of the tooth is the periodontal ligament, composed of collagen fibres. Like millions of little guy ropes, the cumulative strength of these fibres resist the strongest of biting forces. Imagine how much force would be required to overcome their combined strength in an attempt to simply pull out a tooth.

Dr Simon Jones discusses why he prefers using Luxators for extractions

Atraumatic extractions with Luxator Periotome

Dental Nurse Qualifications & Courses
Accredited primary & post registration dental nursing qualifications include:

- Diploma in Dental Nursing (National Certificate)
- Dental Nursing Advance Apprenticeship (Diploma/NVQ 3)
- Oral Health Education Certificate
- Dental Radiography Certificate
- Dental Sedation Certificate
- Flouride & Impression taking courses starting mid 2012

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Accredited & government funded dental office team qualifications include:

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The third force to be overcome is that of atmospheric pressure. Withdrawing a tooth from its socket will create a void or vacuum at the apex of the socket, and until this void is filled with blood or the ingress of air, then atmospheric pressure will effectively push on the tooth to keep it in position. Anyone who can remember back to the Magdeburg Hemisphere experiment in school physics will know that simple atmospheric pressure resisted the force of two teams of horses pulling in opposite directions.

Little wonder then that simply using a combination of forceps and brute force can lead to unnecessary loss of alveolar bone, root fracture, and a subsequently more stressful and stress-free process.

The careful and considered use of a Luxator helps the dentists to divide and conquer the forces retaining a tooth.

The Luxator should be inserted around as much of the circumference of the root as possible to evenly dilate the socket. Once this has been achieved, then the final delivery of the tooth using a Luxator, if it is felt that greater dilating and elevation forces are required then the stronger Luxator Forte should be used. The Forte is easily recognisable by its black handle (Fig 4). This sequence of luxation followed by elevation generally means that forceps are only ever used for the final easy delivery of the tooth.

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