Advancements in dental technology offer better solutions for traditional oral health problems than ever before. Technology makes dentistry as comfortable, durable, efficient and natural-looking for the patient as possible. Patient and dentist benefit from newer techniques that are less invasive and more dependable than ever before. Procedures that formerly took multiple trips to the dentist or required multiple health care providers can now often be performed in the comfort of one surgery by one qualified provider.

Technology increases efficiency significantly. With the latest generation of dental equipment, patients see exactly what you see. This creates trust and empowers them to make decisions about their own care, and not rely purely on the first advice they’re given.

Technology also helps with patient education and case acceptance. If someone is missing a tooth, the team can virtually place an implant and crown with 3D scans and show them exactly where the tooth will go. Patients can see digital X-rays and photos of their teeth blown up on flat screen monitors right in front of or above their dental chair.

Showing patients what’s going on in their mouth, versus just trying to explain it, leads to quicker understanding and fewer questions, making both dental practitioner and hygienist’s job easier.

A system that’s going to particularly appeal to hygienists is Acteon’s Air-n-Go. This is the first dual purpose – supra and perio – air polisher. No other polisher better exemplifies the possibilities of combining the beauty and health of your patients’ teeth. It speeds up treatment, maximising your time, while giving your patients the most gentle, yet powerful cleaning experience they’ve ever encountered.

Beauty and health in one simple, state of the art, system
Rachel Kendrick looks at Acteon’s Air-n-Go

A system that's going to particularly appeal to hygienists is Acteon's Air-n-Go.
Air-n-Go is extremely versatile. The device is made up of a convertible handpiece, available in supra and perio versions, that are compatible with high performance powders, unique in that they are made from all natural components and taste great. Treatments are very gentle, which results in a significant reduction in bleeding and pain. A winning combination for patient choice.

The reason for Air-n-Go’s versatility is its convertible handpiece. This increases options for supra-gingival and sub-gingival treatments. In Supra mode, it helps you achieve perfect cosmetic results with fast, effective, painless polishing that is gentle to both the gingiva and teeth. In Perio mode, it transforms into a simple and efficient device to treat periodontal disease and peri-implantitis sub-gingivally. Just 20 seconds of maintenance is enough to treat periodontitis or peri-implantitis effectively.

The ergonomic handpiece
The handpiece has been designed to create better working conditions for whoever handles it. It is fine, lightweight, well balanced, easy to manipulate and has 360° rotation, resulting in less stress and less manual fatigue. It enables smooth, fast, moveable treatment, improved visibility and excellent accessibility, even in the difficult to reach posterior areas. A non-slip silicone ring on the front gives you a better grip during treatment – even with wet gloves. Manipulation is precise to enable the practitioner to focus on the treatment area. Two exchangeable heads - short and long – are autoclavable. The shorter ‘hygienist’ head is specially designed for smaller hands and as it rests on the front gives you a better grip during treatment.

By pressing the ‘stop powder’ button, at the back of the tank, you cut off the powder flow, which transforms the air polisher into an air and water syringe. This feature allows you not only to clean the treated area, but also to rinse out the interior of the device.

Switching from supra mode to perio couldn’t be simpler or quicker. You select the nozzle, power and the tank – depending on the treatment – and then choose which mode you want without any need to change instrument.

This has the added benefit of needing only one direct connection to the delivery system and other convenience features include:

- Three nozzles cover a variety of applications, including prophylaxis, periodontal and implant maintenance
- Two exchangeable heads, a long and a short one, suit all hand sizes
- Two tanks – supra and perio – come with a ‘Clip-n’Go’ connector (bayonet type) and a colour coding system for identification
- Specific powders for each type of treatment: supra-gingival and sub-gingival applications
- Autoclavable (except for the connector (bayonet type) and a colour coding system for identification
- Removable – biofilm, plaque, stains and remnants of temporary cement

In Perio mode, the indications are:

- Polishing – to finish after scaling or to prepare for bleaching
- Cleaning – interproximal areas, fissures and troughs, preparation of the tooth surface before etching and orthodontic brackets

Not only do the Air-n-Go powders come with 3-6-9mm depth markings to allow rapid assessment of the health of a patient during sub-gingival treatments. The use of this device eliminates bacteria in the pocket and prevents recurrence of the disease.

And it’s worth noting here that ‘Perio’ powder can also be used in supra mode for the prevention and control of periodontitis and peri-implantitis.

The well-being approach to prophylaxis is a concept that is perfectly matched to the needs and wants of your patients. The Classic range of Air-n-Go powders are indicated for maintenance, prevention of tooth decay and improving the oral hygiene of the patient. Their abrasive properties cause no damage to the enamel, the gingiva or the root surface. This range comes in a variety of flavours that each patient chooses, according to individual taste. There is a choice of cola, raspberry, neutral, peppermint or lemon. The fine balance between flavour and sodium saccharin concentration removes any unpleasant taste and offers a feeling of freshness.

In addition to Classic, there is Pearl, a powder specifically designed for supra mode and Perio, exclusively for sub-gingival treatment.

Many patients think of a polishing session as an unpleasant experience, so the motivation to establish a maintenance plan fades quickly. Most sodium bicarbonate-based ‘Perio’ powder, the Air-n-Go is used for sub-gingival pockets of between 4-10mm, in addition to initial therapy. It provides remarkable therapeutic results, with a consid-erable reduction of inflammation and pocket during the phase of initial periodontal treatment. And the nozzle comes with 5.6-9mm depth markings to allow rapid assessment of the health of a patient during sub-gingival treatments. The use of this device eliminates bacteria in the pocket and prevents recurrence of the disease.

The 20º angle of the perio nozzle means that all sides of the tooth or implant may be treated without changing instruments. It also means that treating periodontitis or peri-implantitis in just 20 seconds is now possible.

The anti-clogging and controlled hydroscopic properties of these powders give them a dual action effect:

- In contact with water, micro-particles shrink slightly: the polishing effect is much more efficient
- The powder dissolves gently, which avoids trauma to the delicate tissues and prevents the risk of clogging.

So what do patients think? . . .

“I have a double problem: I’m hooked on caffeine and cigarettes!” Hugh, 34.

“I didn’t have to wait long because the tanks of powders had already been prepared. I like the flavor I want. For once, I can have my say at the dentist! I really liked the raspberry – it was almost as if I was actually eating some.” Mayu, 11.

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“Like many people, I’m afraid of going to the dentist and I hate having my teeth polished. You have to admit that it hurts and isn’t pleasant at all. But this time, it was quite the opposite – completely different! During this session, I forgot about discomfort and the risk of clogging. It was almost as if I was actually eating something.” Stephanie, 23.

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