

“WaveOne is a simple system”

An interview with Dr Julian Webber, UK



Photos: Johannes Eschmann

The new WaveOne NiTi file system from DENTSPLY Maillefer is a single-use, single-file system to shape the root canal completely from start to finish. Drs Julian Webber, Pierre Machtou, Wilhelm Perrot, Sergio Kuttler, Clifford Ruddle and John West were involved in the development, field testing and research associated with WaveOne. **roots** had the opportunity to speak to Dr Webber, The Harley Street Centre for Endodontics (London, UK), about the benefits of the system and the responses it received from visitors during IDS 2011.

_roots: Would you briefly describe the benefits of WaveOne to our readers?

Dr Julian Webber: WaveOne should initially benefit the many general dental practitioners who while desiring to move away from hand preparation of root canals to a simplified mechanical preparation technique have been reluctant to do so in the past. Dentists who have been reluctant to embrace rotary NiTi for fear of instrument breakage, as well as the

excessive number of instruments and costs, will find WaveOne to be the perfect solution.

Using WaveOne is simple and involves only one file in many cases to shape the canal to length fully. As a single-file technique, it is reasonably priced compared with a sequence of files to prepare the root canal, which should be very appealing. We are talking about one file to produce a perfectly shaped root canal; and when the root canal is perfectly shaped, we can irrigate and clean it properly and then fill it properly.

_How exactly does the system work?

In most cases, the technique only requires one hand file followed by one single WaveOne file to shape the canal to length. The specially designed NiTi files work in a similar but reverse “balanced force” action, using a pre-programmed motor to move the files back and forth (“reciprocating motion”). The files are manufactured using M-Wire technology, improving strength and resistance to cyclic fatigue by up to nearly four times compared with other brands of rotary NiTi files.

There are many dentists who are reluctant to use NiTi rotary instruments to prepare canals, despite the recognised advantages of flexibility, less debris extrusion and improved maintenance of canal shape, amongst other advantages. For them, the use of a single reciprocating file will be very attractive both in terms of time and cost saving.

_A general practitioner might get the impression that the WaveOne system makes root canals easy. Do you think encouraging this view might be cause for concern amongst endodontists?



Well, I have read this argument about making root-canal treatment simple. Many colleagues struggle with the complexities of root-canal treatments and I do not see why we can't make it simpler. Any competent dentist has good manual skills. If we can simplify the treatment procedure for general dentists and thereby improve their skills in completing more root-canal treatments to a higher standard, our patients will surely benefit. If you look at the majority of root-canal instruments and the many preparation systems available in today's market, as many as three to five files may be needed to produce a perfectly shaped canal. However, with WaveOne, one file is needed to get to that shape. It's so simple! It's simple to understand, it's simple to use and it's simple to teach.

What sort of response to the system have you had thus far?

People have been very excited by the concept of a single-file system. Yes, root-canal treatment is difficult for many and causes much anxiety, but the majority of people who tried out the technique at the stand during IDS were able to appreciate the simplicity and the benefits of WaveOne for themselves. There was a big buzz around the stand.

Is the WaveOne system already available in Europe and North America?

Yes, it was launched on 10 February in Europe and in North America at the April meeting of the American Association of Endodontists in San Antonio.

Will there be courses offered so dentists can learn how to use the WaveOne system?

DENTSPLY Maillefer has a great continuing education programme, and they work with all their dealers in the countries in which their products are for sale by holding events. In Europe, I will be travelling extensively, with some courses coming up in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Spain, which are organised by the local DENTSPLY dealers.

DENTSPLY is also very involved with dental schools, so there will be some great teaching going on in different venues. We have a team of six involved in WaveOne. There are Pierre Machtou and Wilhelm Pertot from Paris and me in London. In the USA, there are Sergio Kuttler from Fort Lauderdale, John West from Seattle and Clifford Ruddle from Santa Barbara. So hopefully, amongst the six of us, we should be able to get this exciting message out to our dental colleagues.

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