

Dear Reader,



Dr Rafaël Michiels

Endodontics is changing—for better or for worse, that depends on your point of view. Recently, the introduction of new endodontic files aroused the endodontic community. We have seen the arrival of the Self-Adjusting File (SAF), with its revolutionary design and atypical shaping approach. Other recent developments are the WaveOne and Reciproc files, which use a reciprocating movement instead of a continuous rotating movement.

While these innovations offer some advantages to the existing files, we should remain wary. In the last couple of years, a number of innovations have been hyped for a while and then disappeared.

If we take a good look at them, then it is my opinion that this is mainly because there is not much new about them. The WaveOne and Reciproc files, for example, are simply automated versions of the "old" balanced force technique propagated by Dr Roane in 1985. "Obturation in three dimensions", the slogan employed by many current obturation devices, has been possible since Dr Schilder's classic article in 1967. Many more examples can be given this way.

There are many other classic articles that describe materials, techniques, anatomy, etc. If you are an optimist, you could say that the recent inventions make it easier and more predictable to achieve the goal of a root-canal treatment according to the fundamental principles. If you are a realist, then you recognise that the problem lies herein: there is a general lack of knowledge of the basic literature in endodontics. If you are not armed with this knowledge, then you are vulnerable to marketing and aggressive sales representatives. We ourselves have the responsibility of stopping this loss of critical thought. We have to keep ourselves up to date by attending congresses, following independent courses and reading the literature. If we manage to do this and if we succeed in teaching our students and colleagues to do the same, then I am sure we can change endodontics for the better with many new materials, techniques and devices to come.

I am honoured to contribute to this edition of **roots** and hope you will enjoy this issue and can use it to improve your endodontic treatment.

Yours faithfully,

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