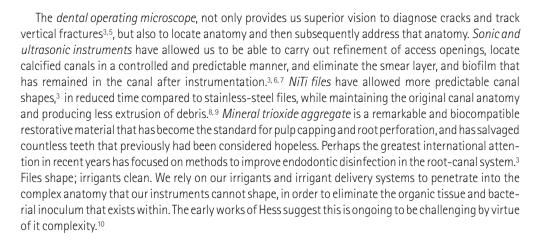
Dear Reader,

_Vince Lombardi so eloquently stated, "Practice does not make perfect. Only perfect practice makes perfect." In other words, we can perform a procedure repeatedly yet not obtain the expected outcome for success. We must continually advance in all disciplines of dentistry in order to provide our patients with the most predictable treatment regimens possible, understanding that the greatest variable that stands in our way is the human variable. Elevating the standards of endodontic care is inexorably tied to an important dynamic, our armamentaria.¹ The objective of endodontic treatment has remained a constant since root-canal treatment was first performed: the prevention and/or treatment of apical periodontitis such that there is complete healing and an absence of infection.² The most important advancements in clinical endodontics forever changed the endodontic landscape with the emergence and development of four technologies.³.4



As I fly 32,000 feet over the Pacific Ocean after lecturing and running Essential Endo Clinical Skill set programmes in both Europe and Asia, it boggles my mind how, with all the modern technologies that exist today to provide predictable endodontics, the fundamentals are often ignored: *Vision, tooth isolation* and *irrigation*. An overwhelming number of general dentists and, surprisingly, endodontists worldwide do not use rubber dams and provide endodontic treatment through a matte of caries. Saliva is allowed to slop into the pulp chamber like the pungent backwater of a contaminated estuary. This is analogous to providing state-of-the-art building technology with the finest of materials but constructing the foundation on a bogland. To take short-cuts during treatment to reduce costs, and to justify it to oneself, is to retreat into a mindset of persistent cognitive dissonance. In order to achieve endodontic nirvana and enjoy the successes that the recent technologies allow us to achieve, we must get back to fundamentals and provide grass roots education in a stepwise, systematic manner to those who will be providing the treatment."

"Science and research will elevate the specialty of endodontics to its rightful pinnacle."¹¹ "The cornerstone to our specialty's integrity and relevance must be built on a strong foundation of randomised clinical trials and evidenced-based endodontics."¹¹ The future of endodontics is bright and holds incredible promise as we continue to develop new techniques and technologies that will allow us to perform endodontic treatment painlessly and predictably, and continue to satisfy one of the main objectives in dentistry, that being to retain the natural dentition.¹²

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Editorial note: A complete list of references is available from the publisher.

