

The evolution of imaging diagnostics for Orthodontics

In the 1970s, the electronic technologies deployed for space exploration launched a veritable revolution in imaging diagnostics capacity—especially in the field of computer tomography. It is curious to note that before we were able to delve deeper into the human body we had to first travel into space.

This giant leap rapidly spread to encompass several areas, as equipment improved and new applications were developed. For example, contrasts are now used to show the path of blood vessels, and once scanning became fast enough, we acquired the ability to capture a still image of the heart to assess possible coronary stenoses.

A major technological advance was achieved with the development of Cone-Beam Computed Tomography, better known by the English acronym CBCT. This tomograph boasts unique features far superior to a conventional CT scanner. The apparatus is more compact and produces fewer artifacts on metal objects, while its radiation dose is about 15 times milder than that of a conventional CT scanner. These features have made it an outstanding resource in Dentistry, and help to explain its current worldwide use.

The distance traveled by imaging diagnostics technology has been remarkable, and this journey has given us a fresh insight into Orthodontics. We therefore decided to organize a special anniversary edition comprising exclusively articles related to imaging diagnostics. Dr. Telma Martins de Araujo's contribution as associate editor of the journal proved invaluable in making this issue come to fruition. She aimed at a format that would feel as closely as possible like reading a book. As a result, in one single issue, readers can enjoy a multifarious, in-depth view of the role of imaging in Orthodontics.

Enjoy your reading!

Jorge Faber
Editor-in-chief
faber@dentalpress.com.br