

# The endodontist and the “canal maker”

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Technology has brought a series of advantages to contemporary life and has simplified several daily practices, including those in the healthcare area. In Dentistry, several resources have streamlined procedures and allowed for greater precision, quality and speed when used effectively.

However, a series of consequences of the use of technology should be taken into consideration. A dentist may be constantly seduced by new appliances and their appearance, as they feature lights, graphs, numbers, which generate the false idea that the greater the number of visual resources, the greater their precision. Other dentists may be only in search of technical protocols; for them, the definition of a diagnosis or the establishment of an adequate prognosis does not matter.

The last decades in Endodontics have also seen great technological advances in the technical area. New instruments, engines and finders, among other resources, have been developed and exhaustively presented at events and courses in the area, which has certainly led to a better preparation of both undergraduate students and all dentists that practice in this area.

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These advances ensure that the technical aspects of their specialty is well consolidated, and all of them, if adequately trained, may perform a good canal treatment and become good “*canalists*”. However, being an endodontist and performing a good endodontic treatment is something else: one should know more about “why to do it” than about “how to do it”. The information obtained from the patient should be arranged logically, and, after that, a diagnosis may be established and the guidelines for the treatment defined. Only then will techniques and instruments be chosen for each specific case.

Technological resources should be used ever more often, including as diagnostic tools, but never to replace a professional’s scientific competence and experience. All endodontists should think about the direction to be followed when deciding who we are preparing: “*canalists*” or endodontists?

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