

# New Dentistry

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“We are still the same and we still live [like our fathers]”, Belchior used to say, in the song “Como Nossos Pais” (Like Our Fathers). In the middle of 2021, we are living the new, the revolution, the impact of the new wave and the new techniques. And I, being fascinated by the new, accept and agree.

More accessible technology, digital design of tooth modifications, digital dental wax, multi-stage scanning, all this is now and forever. The presence of facial harmonization, as long as within acceptable ethical and technical limits, will also remain. This makes me understand that everything is heading in new directions.

The flood of online courses, which have increased enormously in the quarantine and which we see as a formula much used by lecturers and professors (and by many who were marginalized in the teaching environment, including impostors), has shown me the tremendous appeal that the false idea of easy learning has, especially among young people and recent graduates. But I think it is also here to stay.

Now: a tooth is a tooth. And patient will always be patient.

We can wax a tooth digitally or in the traditional way, but, when working in the mouth, the tooth is still enamel/dentin and the anatomy, anthropologically, is the same as it was 500 years ago. We can talk about new treatments and options, but the patient is still a person, who has desires and frustrations, who is afraid, who has self-acceptance problems, just like a human being of 30 years ago. We have equipment, sensors, controls of activities, of speeds, of movements, but the hands and eyes behind every dental activity are on you and your skills, your knowledge, your study, your (good) sense of proper treatment.

And then I remember my father, retired from dentistry, and I realize that he would still be a good dentist today, as he was in the past. Perhaps with fewer guns and less technology, less marketing and less sales momentum, with fewer tools, which would avoid mistakes we see today. But he would still be a great dentist, because good dentistry will always be made not by the modern product - technology/digital marketing/techniques on YouTube / Instagram live / digital smile design - but by the heart and mind of a person with an ethic, this one coming from within the home and taught by parents, and by a humble awareness that as dentists we are just a worker for a greater God, whether you believe it or not.

Then Belchior reminds me, in the midst of my insane search for new equipment and new technologies:

**“My pain is to realize**

**That although we have done everything, everything we have done**

**We are still the same, and we still live**

**We are still the same, and we still live**

**Like our parents”**

A big hug,

