



## Avant-Garde Dentistry: Eyes in the Future and Feet in the Present

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**Received:** April 24, 2022; **Published:** April 27, 2022

The latest SAODS Editorials brilliantly presented new forefront technologies in the world of Dentistry, which are increasingly being employed in various dental specialties [1-4].

The digital flow in Dentistry, intraoral cameras, cone beam tomography and digital and portable radiographs, dental lasers, biomaterials and nanotechnology, personalized prostheses and 3D printing are some examples of technological advancements that are commonly used in dental clinics daily [1-4]. We followed the evolution and use of platelet-rich plasma to the current stage, using fibrin-rich plasma. In the near future, tissue bioengineering and stem cells will be a common part of the clinical and surgical arsenal available to the dental surgeon [3].

The French physician Pierre Fauchard (1679-1761) is considered the "Father of Modern Dentistry", author of the book *Le chirurgien dentiste* (1728), a work that describes the anatomy and some oral pathologies, techniques for the removal of cavities caries, restoration and teeth implantation [5]. Dentistry has evolved since then, following new discoveries, technologies and market evolutions. However, the Science of Fauchard has never developed as fast as it has in the last 50 years, always following the evolution of science, research and technology.

The evolution of Dentistry is undeniable. However, we must keep our feet on the ground. Unfortunately, we still make many mistakes, based on old and archaic premises. A very simple example is the execution of professional prophylaxis, in which we use rubber tips or Robinson brushes and some abrasive (pumice stone, bicarbonate or prophylaxis paste). If we consider an analogy, the dental enamel is typically very smooth and shiny, like the surface of polished glass, and in turn, the abrasive used is like sand. What happens when the dental surgeon carries out professional prophylaxis every six months or once year, for the entire life of the patient? Wear (scratches) and loss of the smooth and shiny coating of the dental enamel!

Here is another example: dental implants, which are widely used and disseminated throughout the world and have their im-

portance in the implantoprosthesis rehabilitation of edentulous patients. However, considering the region of the molar, whose maximum area and mesiodistal and vestibulopalatal or vestibulolingual cervical region are wide, an implant with a maximum diameter of 5mm is installed. Unfortunately, this makes oral hygiene more difficult, and encourages the development of peri-implant disease as a result of this implant limitation.

We have been even more wrong... In the past, to increase the adherence and stability of the maxillary total prosthesis in patients with insufficient mucosa area for the retention of the prosthesis, the vacuum chamber was made by the dental surgeon. Later on, with the use of the maxillary total prosthesis, the suction generated by the vacuum chamber caused inflammatory fibrous hyperplasia, or vacuum chamber hyperplasia, a lesion currently considered a risk factor for oral cancer.

It is important to praise the advances in research and development of materials and techniques used today. However, current Dentistry requires routine care, and common sense in its diligent and responsible execution [4].

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**Volume 5 Issue 5 May 2022**

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