



Keep yourself up to date

There is a remarkable discrepancy between treatment results found in cross-sectional population studies and experimental outcome studies, a fact that is well known and has been addressed in several publications. It must be a matter of concern that worldwide cross-sectional studies observe periapical disease associated with about 30% to 60% of root canal treated teeth, as Prof Spångberg recently mentioned in an very interesting editorial¹. In his opinion, 'there is ample room for improvement' concerning the outcome in endodontic practice¹.

In Germany, a reference to these results and the emphasis on strengthening the concept of evidence-based endodontic practice – made by one renowned endodontist at a university – has led to a boring and counterproductive discussion. The resulting emotive debate within representatives of the dental profession is certainly not helpful to our common goal of improving the quality of endodontic treatment. At present, there is scepticism regarding the need for any kind of specialisation in endodontics in Germany. However, this is not the point. The question should not be whether or not we need specialists in endodontics: the focus should be how we can ensure fundamental improvement in patient care.

In my opinion, the easiest way to avoid such discussion and to upgrade our knowledge is to continue

our education. Hopefully, that is why you are currently reading *ENDO – Endodontic Practice Today*. A sound concept of daily clinical practice not only results from an academic degree or specialisation, but also should be based on pertinent knowledge. The articles published in this issue of *ENDO* are intended to help you stay up to date.

As promised, in this issue you will find an update of some basics (see the review on anaesthesia in endodontics), a kaleidoscope of different treatment concepts for even unusual cases (case reports on dens invaginatus, pyramidal taurodont molars, and teeth with internal and external resorptions) and some news concerning popular rotary nickel-titanium instruments. Hopefully, you will find some useful information and help in this issue.

Enjoy your *ENDO*!

Edgar Schäfer

■ Reference

1. Spångberg L. Endodontics in the era of evidence-based practice. *Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol Endod* 2003;96:517-518.