

The importance of access



Having just returned from the AAE annual congress, my head is full of new ideas. The meeting was interesting and many good ideas were presented during the lectures and at the manufacturers' exhibits.

One aim of ENDO is to present new ideas, and this issue also reflects the increasing interest in the standard procedures of endodontic treatment, such as access to the root canal system. The quality of the access to the root canal system can determine the quality of the endodontic treatment, as explained by Ove Peters in the first article. With insufficient access, the endodontic treatment may be unsuccessful because it will be difficult to find all the root canals and irrigate the root canals sufficiently. Preparation of the access cavity can sometimes be time-consuming if the pulp chamber is calcified, but investing time in access cavity preparation is always rewarding when you find all the root canals and when your files do not fracture during instrumentation.

Another important issue in root canal treatment is the use of rubber dam. Just like a good access cavity, rubber dam is indispensable during endodontic treatment. For disinfection of the root canals, and to prevent the root canals from becoming infected, rubber dam should be used. I cannot perform an endodontic treatment without using rubber dam; unfortunately, many dentists still think they can.

A further article, reporting a study on the problems related to patients undergoing irradiation treatment, may help to clarify or prevent these problems in daily clinical practice.

I hope you enjoy this issue of ENDO, and that you will be more motivated to pay attention to the access cavity, and use rubber dam.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luc van der Sluis".

Luc van der Sluis