

INTRODUCTION OF THIS ISSUE

Preface

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Chief editor of this issue

If orthodontists at the end of the 20th century were obliged to extend their therapeutic efforts to more than just mechanical adjustment of the positions of teeth, orthodontists at the dawn of the 21st century should certainly enlarge their vision to encompass not just the field of dentistry but also other disciplines and, above all, to understand patients in their entirety and, by doing so, confront the principal weakness of modern western medicine. In this spirit, we hope that you have enjoyed and benefited from the two special theme issues we have published this year on periodontics and on the obstructive sleep apnea syndrome.

And now to finish the year, we present you with an issue filled with a great variety of topics, including:

The interview that Philippe AMAT, Jacques BERREBI and Franck HERVÉ conducted with Samir NAMMOUR, the director of the EMDOLA project, in which European dentists can earn a masters degree in the dental use of lasers. Professor Nammour reviews the sometimes surprising clinical applications of lasers in fields that range from periodontics and endodontics to the prevention of caries. You might not be aware that by employing lasers, Dr. Nammour points out, you can not only perform the surgical procedures we are all familiar with, you can also improve the solidity of bonded orthodontic

attachments and, with soft lasers, accelerate tooth movement in mechano-therapy.

After a brief summation about the basic theory of laser beam spread, Jacques BERREBI presents for interested readers the criteria they should use in selecting the right laser for the application they will employ it for.

In order to help us keep in mind our daily clinical concerns, Jessy LHOTELLIER offers us his study of the esthetic evaluation of a number of profiles according to three different orders of mandibular advancement and how our evaluations as orthodontists may differ from those formed by the typical "man in the street".

Camille PHILIP-ALLIEZ analyses for us the occlusal consequences of a clinical choice that is rarely made, one for which, however, there may be some precise indications: the Class III therapeutic molar relationship. This is without doubt the only work to have investigated this subject in such depth.

Is osteopathy a discipline that is antithetical or can it be complimentary to dento-facial orthopedics? Are there occasions when we should refer our patients to osteopaths just we routinely now do to speech therapists? Alain BENAULT and Lucile CORNET-VERNET have conducted interviews with osteopathic colleagues to learn their point of view about the complementarity of our two specialties.

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And Philippe AMAT shows us how an exclusively myofunctional approach corrected three cases of anterior cross bites, clearly demonstrating that orthodontics without mechano-therapy is really possible!

And Patrick LÉVIGNE analyses for us in exquisite detail the legal aspects of the three-way relationship of child-parent-practitioner. Although numerous writers have published articles reviewing the traditional doctor-patient relationship what extra complications, he asks, are added to the mix when parents are involved and, especially, what happens when those parents are divorced or separated?

An examination of reconstituted families and, even more, the reign of the "child-king" opens a window on comical situations occurring in orthodontic offices that may mask

complex legal issues whose existence we may not always suspect.

Then Julien PHILIPPE, a highly respected etymologist, explains the origin and development of two words particularly pertinent to our practices, orthodontics and malocclusion.

Finally, our usual rubrics continue to make their contributions notably with a rigorously clinical article by Patrick SULTAN explaining how to respond to a frequent request by adult patients at the end of treatment for tooth whitening.

By this time you must have discerned the leitmotif of this issue, developing our interest and participation in inter-disciplinary treatment.

We hope you will find hours of reading pleasure between the covers of this journal and we wish you all joyous holidays and a very happy New Year!