

# Brazilian Dentistry

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**“Brazilian dentistry is the best in the world!”** This great slogan speaks volumes about ourselves and our prideful identity. The correlation I make is: “Brazilian football is the best in the world!” Would you agree or disagree?

We have, as a country, a certain classic **low self-esteem** of feeling a little **inferior** and **isolated**. This comes from the fact that we are a Portuguese-speaking country lost in a Spanish-speaking ocean. To make matters worse, our territorial size does not allow us to travel easily to other countries in order to learn their culture and feel the need to learn, after all, other languages. We become an island. We react by acting opposite, like the person who attacks when he is afraid.

We have decided to be the emperor of our own island and create our own self-esteem, modeled on the nationalist and boastful slogan mentioned above. We are actually trying to convince ourselves of this. After all, do we have the best football in the world? Or do we have the pride of belief? Are we striving to make the myth a reality or are we just sailing in the waters of “say what I want”?

In Dentistry I have traveled the world giving lectures at congresses and dental events, and many Brazilians do the same. Internationally, we have great recognition as Brazilian Dentistry, thanks to a large number of teachers and fantastic speakers who carried this banner, creating a “style of doing Dentistry” that characterizes our techniques. We have much of the best, yes.

But we have much of the worst, the lack of excellence and professional responsibility, the indiscriminate use of marketing and very little common sense. We have the worst dental waste, yes, make no mistake, and do not try to argue for ultranationalist defenses. We have an uncountable number of colleges (no country in the world, and we are the best in that, there are so many courses in Dentistry). This is a crime and absurd; it's unreal. Do you believe that we can have a good / reasonable level of training with the colleges that you and I know exist and how they are? The number of trained dentists is so big that we will obviously have both the best and the worst.

I am accused of being pessimistic or not very Brazilian, but I put my dirty face from hard work at the service of our dentistry for years. And, yes, I feel apt to make some criticism. We hide behind the certainty that we are the best, and not always, nor forever, will we be the best. Do not relax on the laurels of the teachers who came before us, like Mondelli and Baratieri (among so many others) who pushed our level up. You have to do your part, study, evolve, improve, to say that we are better. You have to start to be more ethical and responsible before you go on announcing “botox week”.

Answering the question initiated, I would say: we have the best and worst dentistry in the world.

A big critical hug to the unreal number of Dentistry courses in the country.



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