

Counterfeit of endodontic files puts dental industry on alert

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The data is alarming. According to a survey by ABIMO, of the more than 2 million dental implants made in Brazil, 30% are made with products with no provenance. The volume of irregular parts and components seized by the Federal Police without registration in ANVISA, under the scope of Operation Fake, which combats piracy and falsification in the dental sector, reaches 350 thousand.

The next big thing is the endodontic instruments, especially the files and drills. Dentsply Sirona, the largest importer and leader in the endodontic market in Brazil, has seen the number of registrations and complaints with the SAC in recent months on suspicion of forgery or problems arising from the use of pirated files.

“It’s not a completely new fact, because counterfeit has always existed in instruments for endodontics. However, it is noticeable the increase in the indexes of registrations for suspected falsification, which motivated us to create an awareness campaign that aims to stimulate the professionals to buy only original products in registered dental”, affirms **Fabiana Nolasco, product coordinator of Endontics Dentsply Sirona.**

“It is critical that the market be attentive to differentiate original products from counterfeit and only buy the materials in reliable dental. In addition, of course, distrust of prices far below what the market practices, especially in the digital channel”, adds **Natthalie Rodrigues, product coordinator VDW,** a brand that operates in Brazil under the management of Dentsply Sirona.

This scenario places the entire industry on the alert, especially the academic area, responsible for training and qualifying the professionals of the future. In the course of Dentistry at São Francisco University, in São Paulo countryside, since the beginning of this year, a class focused specifically on helping the student to identify a falsified or low quality instrument has been incorporated into the curriculum. *“We noticed an above-normal volume of more fragile products, which pose risks to intervention. This motivated us to create a class that guides students to be attentive, from the visualization of the information in the insert to an analysis of the instrument itself”,* says **Miguel Haddad Filho, president of the Technical Chamber of Endodontics of the Regional Council of Dentistry of São Paulo (CROSP) and Coordinator of the Dentistry Course of the São Francisco University.**

The issue was definitely on the agenda, as the Technical Commission on Endodontics, led by Haddad, in partnership with the APCD, studies how to disseminate this concern and, above all, a guiding content for other universities and, above all, dentists

Patient's health at risk

Piracy affects the entire dental chain, from manufacturer to distributor and to professional, and puts at risk the success of the procedure and, consequently, the health of the patient.

According to the **Specialist, Master and PhD in Endodontics by the School of Dentistry of Piracicaba (Unicamp), Carlos Bueno**, falsified, pirated or produced materials without quality standard and approval in ANVISA can provoke diverse damages and oral infections, putting the life of the patients at risk. *“There are numerous risks, from the failure of the procedure, which will be observed only in the long term, in case of an inefficient cleaning, for example, until a fissure or infection”*, Bueno warns.

The Associate Professor of the School of Dentistry of the University of São Paulo (USP), Manoel Machado, points out that the instruments

play a fundamental role in the success rate of a procedure. *“The effectiveness of the treatment and consequently the patient’s oral health are directly linked to the physical-chemical properties and design of the instrument. The pirated material submits the professional to inconveniences throughout the procedure and can lead to a complication of all Endodontic therapy, generating undesirable circumstances for both the professional and the patient”*, adds Professor Machado.

The president of the **Brazilian Society of Endodontics, professor Marco Hungaro**, goes further and suggests coordinated work at all levels to prevent unregulated or pirated products from reaching the offices. *“I think we have to work more intensively at the governmental level and with a greater rigor in the control of materials input”*, he says.

Know where to buy minimizes risks

Nothing is as valuable as the medical reputation and health of patients. Therefore, it is essential that the professionals pay attention to differentiate original products from counterfeit ones. And for that, acquiring dental products only on accredited dental shops minimizes the risk of buying pirated products.