

# The value of Endodontics

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Endodontics: a word sometimes difficult to be pronounced or even understood by a layperson. Sometimes — due to the mistaken comprehension of some reports by certain people who make exaggerated remarks or who may really have been through some stressful situations during an endodontic treatment —, it is seen as a genuine martyrdom, like Chinese torture. Nevertheless, Prof. Dr. Alceu Berbert (in memoriam), supported by all his wisdom, always stated that Endodontics is one of the most sublime specialties, for it awards human being the gift of relieving their peers' pains, acting with our own hands.

Current Endodontics, with the emergence of advanced technologies and the use of top-notch materials, has become a prominent specialty in the Dentistry field. However, in order to ensure the current level, its journey was exhaustive, and it went through many eras. Nothing more than ten eras, among which we can cite the empiricism and the mystical eras. Subsequently, with Fauchard, in the 18th century, came the scientific era. In 1844, the general anesthesia, with Horace Wells, enabled a more humanized treatment. In 1891, we had the germicide era. Nonetheless, in the period between 1910 and 1928, the focal infection era prevailed. In this era, Endodontics completely lost its prestige. By fighting hard and with a work focused on biological aspects, our predecessors, professionals imbued with herculean dedication, working for Endodontics, and not their own ego, made our specialty, from 1928 — the era of the endodontic resurgence —, emerge from the ashes like a Phoenix and take wing, thus remaining until nowadays. From that era on, evolution was a constant and Endodontics has always tried to stay at the top, always offering the best treatments to those in need.

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After these reflections, we urge all of our colleagues — professionals, researchers and those who really try to always do their best, regardless of the inherent difficulties — to keep on exercising their values, not being deluded by propensity to what is easier, aiming at always reaching the best performance. However, not the misleading best, or that one we think may be best, but the truly best, based on clinical and biological evidences, sifted by honest research.

This warning is necessary at the present moment, so that we will not let Endodontics be thrown back to the focal infection era, as proposed by certain specialties. A tooth exposed to a well performed endodontic treatment will never be — nor should it be — the focus of an infection that may cause constant harm to the patient.

A tooth that received perfectly performed endodontic treatment is a healthy tooth, which does not cause problems or manifestations to the periapical tissues and/or the entire organism. It is like a tooth with normal pulp. Hence, there is no reason why it should be extracted or replaced by an implant.

Endodontics has always been, and it will always be the great teeth savior.

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