gingival re-contouring to treating periodontal pockets and adjunctive to endodontics therapy and exposure of implant fixtures. The modern ones are very portable and some are even cordless so that they can be used in multiple rooms. Hard-tissue lasers are also useful, but at this time are considerably more expensive. See Fig 5.

6. Velscope. An amazing piece of equipment for the early detection of oral cancer. While the cost of this screening can pay for the machine, patients are also very appreciative of having this reassurance and with the correct marketing, the costs of the machine can quickly be recouped via goodwill. See Dental Tribune Vol 2, Issue 26 and Fig 6.

7. Wand. This is a computerised local anaesthetic delivery system that allows slow and painless anaesthetics. It is a modern replacement for syringes which have barely changed in design since 1855. Pain from palatal infiltrations will be a thing of the past and a single point of infiltration can anaesthetise upper three to three. As the needle can be held with a pen grip, there is minimal risk of deflection of the needle when giving an inferior dental block and hence the chances of failure are vastly reduced.

8. Magnification. A real eye opener once you start using it, especially when used in conjunction with a battery light–see Fig 8. It’s best to start with relatively low power of 2.5 times loupes. This can go up to times 4.5 with higher powered loupes or even higher with microscopes. Ensure your loupes are professionally measured to fit yourself for visual acuity. The magna vu is a video microscope that can be used to record procedures for patient education. It can be used live to work off indirect vision from a flat screen TV or even to feed procedures to a lecture room. It also can act as a magnification device of up to x 25 optical and x 50 digital. See Figs 8a and 8b.

9. Power whitening lamp – such as ZOOM Advanced Power. While some older studies maintain that the light does little but provide marketing support for the bleaching procedure, newer studies dispute this and our experience is that power whitening certainly kick starts the procedure and gives patients the motivation to continue with home trays that they might otherwise be reluctant to wear.

10. Collardam. Although this is not high-tech in price, the crystal fibre technology is high tech and allows your patient to stay dry around the neck area even with the large amounts of water and spray are created associated with restorative dentistry and even ultrasonic scalers. If you think your patients do not get wet, just ask them. See Fig 10.

The products mentioned in this article are the ones used on a daily basis by the authors and other than Collardam, for which they are company directors, they receive no financial incentives for their use or promotion.

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