Recently, I read in a highly regarded dental publication of the dentist drilling, treating and providing aid out in the middle of the desert, just next to the off-road vehicle, with the nearest hospital probably hundreds of kilometres away. Men love adventures. Full of excitement, we enjoy watching others survive life-threatening adventures in the jeep of that well-known cigarette brand bearing the humped animal on its packaging. Owing to mobile medical technology, treatment at a good level can even be provided in such contexts. I recently needed something similar. A long-term patient (glioblastoma, radiotherapy, palliative care, mucositis) presented with a pressure sore and requested a home visit, since he was not able to walk. This posed no problems for me, since our joint practice has looked after patients in two old age homes for years. In the homes, there are infirmaries where the mostly bed-ridden patients receive special care. Our agreement with management is that we see the patient at the respective home if any dental problems arise. If we determine that more complex diagnostic and therapeutic measures are necessary, the patient is brought to our practice by ambulance. Often, seniors are already edentulous, and sometimes only the usual problems with tooth #28 occur.

In these situations, a useful mobile device we employ is the cordless Bravo Portable II (Hager & Werken), a small and portable micro-motor. Similar to mobile phones, it is remarkable how the dimensions of batteries have decreased while their running time has increased.

The device can be recharged more than 500 times, yielding a service life of many years. Twenty years ago, I bought the predecessor of the Portable II and it was only recently that I had to replace it with the newer model. The manufacturer provides a comprehensive instruction manual with its motor, which is compatible with any standard handpiece. The manual states that the Portable II needs to be charged with the charging unit for only 6 hours to be fully charged. Of course, the motor runs as well counter-clockwise as clockwise. Rotations can be preselected from 1,600 to 25,000 with a standard contra-angle handpiece (blue ring). Owing to its low weight of 100 g and a clip to attach it to a belt, the device can be carried everywhere.

Face every treatment situation with confidence, whether it be a home visit, in an old age home, at a correctional facility or even in the wilderness.

The elderly patients at the nursing home will thank you for being able to resolve their pressure spots on-site instead of taking their prostheses to your practice. Just make sure that you always keep your Bravo Portable in sight, and if it goes missing, have a look in your son’s workshop. The small portable micro-motor is also suitable for filigreed craft-work, so it is popular with non-dentists too.