The man behind the microscope

Dr. Assad Mora shares his thoughts on using 3-D vision to make treatment easier and improve patient care

By Fred Michmershuizen, Managing Editor Endo Tribune

As inventor of the MORA Interface and the MoraVision® 3D system, Assad F. Mora, DDS, MSD, FACP, pioneered a new era in visualization technology by introducing the use of stereoscopic 3-D video technology for viewing the operating field in real time for performing clinical dental procedures. Mora is a graduate of Damascus University who came to the United States in the early 1970s to study prosthodontics. Today, he maintains a private practice in Santa Barbara, Calif., with his wife, Kathy Patmore, an endodontist. He discussed with Dental Tribune how he became involved with microscope enhanced dentistry, the thinking behind the MoraVision 3D system, and what he sees for the future of microdentistry.

Please describe the MoraVision 3D system.

It is a digital stereoscopic microscope system that delivers to the viewer an accurate, three-dimensional depth perception in real time. It also delivers two different perspectives of the same operating field, one for the doctor and another for the assistant. The MoraVision 3D system is unique in that the assistant vision is provided as a standard configuration with the system, not an option.

What comprises the system itself?

The MoraVision System has two main components: the MoraScope™ and the MoraVu™ 3D. The MoraScope is made of two self-contained digital stereoscopic microscopes in one housing. It combines the powers of two zoom stereo microscopes and their high definition (HD) video cameras into one compact 5-inch cube to provide magnification levels from 0.5x to 50x. The MoraVu 3D is a real time stereoscopic display module based on two HD LCD monitors and a beam splitter.

How can MoraVision 3D help specialists and GPs provide better patient care?

The benefits of the MoraVision 3D system extend to all phases of dentistry, for specialist and GPs alike. In addition to improving the quality of dental care for the patient, it can save the back and the neck of the dentist and the assistant. It improves the quality of dental care by virtue of providing an unobstructed magnified view of the operating field in real time for performing clinical dental procedures.

Dentists often first to spot eating disorders in patients

National Eating Disorders Awareness Week runs Feb. 22–28 and is sponsored by the National Eating Disorders Association to raise awareness of the dangers surrounding eating disorders and the need for early intervention and treatment. Because Delta Dental Plans Association recognizes eating disorders as a serious health care concern, it also wants to increase awareness of the potential oral health problems that can be caused by eating disorders.

An eating disorder is a complex compulsion to eat in a way that disturbs physical, mental and psychological health. The three most common eating disorders are anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and binge eating disorder. The eating may be excessive (compulsive overeating); restrictive; or may include normal eating punctuated with episodes of purging¹ (such as self-induced vomiting, use of laxatives, fasting, diuretics or diet pills²). The eating may include cycles of binging and purging, or it may encompass the ingesting of non-foods³ (such as dirt, clay or chalk). Each of these disorders robs the body of adequate minerals, vitamins, proteins and other nutrients needed for good health and may cause injury to teeth, muscles and major organs.⁴ “Eating disorders have serious implications for oral health and overall health,” says Max Anderson, DDS, a national oral health advisor for Delta Dental Plans Association. “Stomach acids can damage teeth with repeated exposures during purging for those individuals with bulimia nervosa. For those individuals with anorexia nervosa, which is characterized by self-induced starvation, teeth and bones can become less dense due to the lack of nutrients needed for bone health.”

¹Eating disorders have serious implications for oral health and overall health," says Max Anderson, DDS, a national oral health advisor for Delta Dental Plans Association. “Stomach acids can damage teeth with repeated exposures during purging for those individuals with bulimia nervosa. For those individuals with anorexia nervosa, which is characterized by self-induced starvation, teeth and bones can become less dense due to the lack of nutrients needed for bone health.”

²See EATING DISORDERS, Page 3

³See MICROSCOPE, Page 6

⁴Lynn Pancek, EDH, MS.

See article by Ellen Slattery, RDH and Hygiene Tribune: invest in loupes

Cosmetic Tribune: immediate dentures

Although there is a large market for high-quality dentures, it is often overlooked in clinical practice. Join Dr. Craig Callen as he explains how to get patients and demonstrates the techniques employed during each appointment.

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