

Introduction

This text is written for the dentist with little or no dental operating microscope experience. The text is divided into two sections.

The first section is “why.” It is a review of the published literature on dental operating microscopes. The review of published articles shows 30-years of dental operating microscope literature exists. The literature reveals consistent experiences reported by those users over those years and across disciplines. Most reports are anecdotal. The extant studies confirm the user’s experiences. The why chapters are composed of verbatim or nearly verbatim statements of the authors whose articles are referenced in the bibliography. We chose this format because of the anecdotal nature of most of the literature. By doing so we were able to preserve most accurately, the original impressions of the authors for the reader. In this way the consistency of their impressions across time and clinical disciplines becomes readily apparent. In disciplines where controlled clinical studies are extant we discuss them in some detail. Microscope dentistry is an area that begs for further investigations due to the expanse of the material and the paucity of formal studies. The chapter on exodontia is composed entirely of the author’s own clinical experiences and techniques. There is currently no written literature on this subject of which we are aware.

The second section of the text is an organized approach to learning the use of the dental operating microscope. This “how to” section of the text is the result of the author’s teaching more than 500 students how to use the microscope in more than 50 courses. The teaching techniques were developed by observing what works and what doesn’t. The result of this tested training methodology erases the long learning curve associated with microscope implementation

The orientation of the bibliography in this text is unconventional in that it is in chronological order. This format makes the unfolding of thought in the literature clear.