Learn the best endo tricks and techniques

By L. Stephen Buchanan, DDS, FICD, FACD

Welcome to Friday at the Yankee Dental Congress. Today is a fun day for me because I will be lecturing this morning and again in the afternoon. I’ll begin by covering how to get your patients profoundly numb — in every case, in very little time. I’ll also discuss a long overdue trend I started years ago: making more conservative access cavities without forsaking convenience form. The loss of structural integrity is the No. 1 complaint will use before shaping the canal. I’ll discuss what you should use and when you should go back to standard K-files or a combination of the two. I will cover all the challenges you will face in negotiating root canals and teach you all the tricks to assure yourself from getting to full length. I will also go over how to manage all the different types of impediments you may encounter in clinical practice.

This afternoon, I will continue on topics of conventional RCT, including creating smaller coronal shapes, cleaning efficacy and what should be the new standard in obturation. You will learn proper file selection for all root forms and learn to carve very efficient, predictable and reproducible shapes using safe but rapid cutting files, often with only one to three files. The goal of shaping is to make room for the irrigants to kill the bugs, and if you cheat this aspect of RCT, you will cheat your patients and your success rate. There are many new methods for doing this, and I will review my cleaning protocol. Finally, I will discuss the importance of warm, centered condensation filling techniques that are truly state-of-art.

My objective is to share all my best endo tricks and techniques in a manner that will allow their application next week in your practices.

I’ll see you at the apex!

About the author

L. Stephen Buchanan, DDS, FICD, FACD, completed the endodontic graduate program at Temple University in Philadelphia in 1980. In 1989, he established Dental Education Laboratories, through which he has lectured and conducted participation courses around the world, published numerous articles and produced a video series, “The Art of Endodontics.” He is a diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics and a fellow of the International and American Colleges of Dentistry. He also serves as an assistant clinical professor at the University of Southern California School of Dentistry and at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Dentistry. He maintains a private practice limited to endodontics and implant surgery in Santa Barbara, Calif. Buchanan can be reached through his company, Dental Education Laboratories, at www.endobuchanan.com, info@endobuchanan.com or by calling (805) 899-4529.