**The future of Endodontology**

Hagay Shemesh, PhD

Academic Center for Dentistry Amsterdam (ACTA), Amsterdam, the Netherlands

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* The importance and limitations of technical innovations will be discussed and demonstrated by two examples: Ultrasonic irrigation and Resilon root canal fillings. Both were extensively investigated between 2002-2010 but mainly through in-vitro studies. Once clinical outcome data became available, it appeared that both promising innovations were not beneficial for the long-term healing of periapical lesions.
* Conceptual changes in the way we see endodontology are likely to determine the shift we will have in clinical endodontology in the coming years, rather than the technical developments. A few examples will be given such as preventive strategies in vital pulp therapy and attempts to introduce new endodontic diagnostic terminology. Overtreatments, partial re-treatments and minimal invasive treatments will be given as additional examples of a paradigm shift in the way endodontists may think in the future.
* The basic dilemma of treating periapical periodontitis will be discussed considering the current knowledge. The 4 goals of treatment: regaining functionality and treating symptoms, Infection control, effects on systemic health and eradication of inflammation will be critically examined for their feasibility and results after root canal treatments. A novel approach of managing periapical periodontitis rather than treating it will be suggested, such as the case in leaving persistent periapical periodontitis untreated.
* Concluding remarks will include the difference between disease-related outcomes and patient-related outcomes, and the conceptual shifts in endodontology in the future.

***Handouts of the presentation are available on*** [***www.shemesh.nl***](http://www.shemesh.nl)