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Risks, Benefits and Costs - Dr Michael Sultan

Posted by [Erica Kilburn](#) on Thursday, 14 August 2014 in [Product Updates](#)Font size: Hits: 125 0 Comments [Subscribe to this entry](#)

If we fail to offer our patients the very latest technological innovations in diagnosis and care dentistry?

The best imaging equipment, such as CBCT scanners, give a specialist enormous amounts of it wouldn't it be better if they were able to take a scan and say, for example, "The reason this Therefore the treatment I propose is X"?

That would be the gold standard of service, and in an ideal world offered to every patient. U degrees of radiation, prompting the argument of how a dentist could ethically irradiate each information? But if they didn't, are they then failing to provide the greatest possible diagnosis

Risks and Benefits

As with everything there are risks and benefits to be considered. The European Society of Endodontics said, “A CBCT scan should have a net benefit to the management of a patient’s (suspected) pathology. If it was up to a specialist and radiation wasn’t an issue, every patient would be scanned. It must be this ‘net benefit’ that outweighs the radiation risks. Therefore the decision not to use CBCT is the decision to do so.

Cost

So what about when the cost of the latest technology is only financial rather than physical?

25 years ago endodontists didn’t all use microscopes, and the old boys would say to us, “You weren’t good enough, and therefore the specialism became two-tiered: those with microscopes working without microscopes shouldn’t have been offering treatments - rather that for particular successes of those who did.

These are of course still early days for the technology, but there may come a time when it becomes a second-tier diagnostic service.

Naturally this is all a part of the process of progress; a reciprocating cycle that will continue to challenge treatments, leaving those who don’t prescribe to the latest technological advances playing in the questions around the level of service we can provide, and the truth of the matter is that it’s a

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Dr Michael Sultan BDS MSc DFO FICD is a Specialist in Endodontics and the Clinical Director of EndoCare dental practitioner for 5 years before commencing specialist studies at Guy’s hospital, London. He was an Endodontist in various practices before setting up in Harley St, London in 2000. He was admitted onto the Royal College of Surgeons extensively to postgraduate dental groups as well as lecturing on Endodontic courses at Eastman CPD, Royal College of Surgeons groups and has been chairman of the Alpha Omega dental fraternity. In 2008 he became clinical direct

[1] Available at <http://www.britishendodonticsociety.org.uk/profession/quality-guidelines.html> accessed 19/08/2014

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Erica Kilburn

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