

INTRODUCTION TO THIS ISSUE

Foreword

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One day in the second or third year of dental school I noticed that the course scheduled for that afternoon was entitled "Assessing the bio-psycho-social status of the patient." At the time I was as amused by the sound of this topic as I was intrigued by it. Today after learning from the stern teacher of experience in daily dental practice, I fully appreciate how much that course taught me and I consider that is essential for these notions to be integrated into the program of the second half of dental school studies.

They are a vital component to a modern global approach to evaluation of patients, something we all now agree upon. Beyond the physical dental defects we are called upon to treat, we must also attempt to evaluate the totality of the patient's cognitive and emotional as well as postural dimensions.

Recognizing this new aspect of dental practice, the Revue of the ODF has decided to examine the theme of posture, a vast subject that, despite its allure for a great many dentists, does not yet enjoy a large supporting consensus. In fact, it seems easier to criticize and even reject these notions than it is to prepare an effective way to teach them without some a priori

basis. To help in our presentation we have relied on a variety of authors not only from the field of orthodontics but also from medicine and psychology to appear in this issue and in the one that will follow it.

In his introduction, Professor Fenart, whom our readers already know from his work devoted to growth and human development, elucidates the phylogenesis of the vertebral column. From this base an examination of the axial skeletal of Man is presented and this is shown to be intimately related to other components of the body, the head, the pelvis, and the arms and legs.

In the space of a single article, Philippe Amat has displayed for us, with the necessary scientific rigor and objectivity, the whole range of the current state of our knowledge about the relationship between posture and occlusion and the clinical implications of this dyad even though he has already integrated assessment of and treatment of postural anomalies into his own private practice.

Jean-Luc Ouhioun has been working for some time with Michel Clauzade and has adopted his concept of orthoposturodentics. He shows us the usefulness of securing good cranio-mandibular relationships before

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beginning orthodontic treatment because at a later date some mal-function in that relationship could be involved in the etiopathogenesis of tempero-mandibular and postural mal-functioning.

The Revue of the ODF also wanted to publish the results of the work of Pierre Lecomte and Angélique Jorand. Their studies have evaluated the psychological distress of patients suffering from a Syndrome of Postural Deficiency. They propose a useful tool that orthodontists can employ to help them discern patients with postural problems that will need corrective assistance.

In the next issue, Pierre-Henri Dupas *et al.* will present a precise outline of their approach for dealing with cranio-mandibular malfunctions in dento-facial orthopedics. After describing the tonic postural system of the tongue, Isabelle Gault will share her

experience in postural treatment with us. Maryvonne Fournier, in an interview we conducted with her, will give a synthesis of her thinking and again explain the importance of good rest tongue posture and of a well-balanced over-all posture.

We hope that this issue and the next one will be not only a source of information for you but also a way for us to communicate to you our enthusiasm for the subject. May these articles inspire a fruitful inter-disciplinary exchange of ideas, encourage us to take a wider view of our need to concern ourselves with the total patient, and stimulate the preparation of additional articles for future issues.

Now, get yourself seated in a comfortable chair that provides good support for your back, make sure your head is in an upright position and... enjoy your reading.