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Outstanding design: Aesculap´s ERGOPERIO periodontology instruments win iF award

Tuttlingen. ERGOPERIO, the new generation of dental instruments for periodontology won the prestigious 2015 iF design award in the “Medical/ Healthcare“ category. The prize recognizes the ergonomical and functional design of the product range for dentistry. The iF seal of approval has been awarded since 1953 and is regarded as one of the most significant design competitions worldwide.

Out of the ERGOPROBE diagnostic instrument range the instrument family for periodontology therapy has now been updated to the newly developed design, combining the benefits of the longer than two-year development process. Pedro Morales, Director Research and Development at Aesculap, is delighted with the award: “We are very proud about this recognition of ERGOPERIO. Practitioners from University Schools of Dentistry and dental practices were closely involved in the development process and this is reflected in the result - a synthesis of ergonomics and aesthetics which makes the dentist´s work more comfortable and less tiring.“

Traditional dental instruments are made of steel, leading to an increased rate of work fatigue due to their weight. Hence, these instruments are very finely shaped. However, from an ergonomic perspective this has an adverse effect because bulkier instruments sit much better in the dentist`s hand. In the ERGOPERIO design, a new material blend of steel and extremely light, thermostable and durable PEEK-plastic, developed for aeronautical applications, is used for the instruments handles. This results in an improved

shape and handle thickness, as well as a 30% reduction in weight compared with the much finer traditional steel instruments. Pedro Morales explains the advantages as follows: “The surface of the handles is in the tried and tested golf ball design which provides a particularly comfortable and haptic grip. Furthermore, a color code on the scalers and curettes identifies the various shapes of the working ends, thereby allowing faster orientation. Hence, the new instrument design facilitates functional and ergonomic work in dentistry.“

The ERGOPERIO range includes all instruments for periodontologic treatments such as scalers and curettes, raspatories and elevators, forceps, sharp curettes and chisels, tunneling instruments, gingivectomy knives, mouth mirror holders and periodontometers. In addition to the updating of the 80 already existing instruments to the new ERGOPERIO design, 21 new instruments were added to the periodontal instrument range.

The newly developed micro forceps demonstrate a special feature for tissue conserving surgery. The micro forceps plateaus close in parallel, thereby enabling the soft tissue to be grasped along the entire length of the plateau. In this way, the micro forceps can be held with reduced selective contact pressure, thereby protecting the delicate soft tissue structures. In addition, the width of the working ends is designed to facilitate filigree, microsurgical work but also to allow the soft tissues, needle and suture material (up to 6/0) to be held. At the same time it prevents the working ends from cutting into the soft tissue structures. The shape and design also follow ergonomic principles: The tapered shape guarantees a comfortable, haptic grip and the round shape of the handles allows the dental surgeon to turn the instrument between the finger tips.

Manufacturers from 53 countries applied nearly 5,000 products for the iF Design Award. These included Aesculap´s ERGOPERIO set of periodontology instruments which was awarded the prestigious seal of approval.

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