

ASK THE EXPERT

Air Polishing and Scaling



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Significant problems dental clinicians face, such as ergonomics, keeping patients comfortable during treatment, and difficulty maintaining health of implants, are now being addressed with technological advancements.

The HuFriedyGroup PWR Pair piezoelectric scaler and air polisher are transforming patient care. Clinicians are reporting less ergonomic strain, and patients are leaving hygiene treatments feeling a renewed sense of oral health, all due to the addition of the air polisher system. Below, periodontist **Dr. Edward Allen** and hygienist **Chris Meylan** discuss the details of this evidence-based technology and the impact they have seen on patient care and experiences.

What makes the HuFriedyGroup PWR Pair piezoelectric scaler and air polisher combination stand out amongst power instrumentation?

This instrumentation is unique in that patients feel comfortable throughout the entire procedure. Patients that present with inflammation and recession and typically experience increased sensitivity during their hygiene appointments will no longer be uncomfortable. With this unit, the tips are gentle, and warm water is used, so clinicians can effectively scale subgingival and along exposed root surfaces without causing discomfort to the patient.

How has the use of air polishing impacted the patient experience as well as treatment outcomes?

With the ease of use and comfortability, patients leave their hygiene appointments commenting on how clean their mouths feel after experiencing the air polish. This technology is able to remove biofilm in areas of pocketing and around implants that may have traditionally been difficult to instrument. Due to the enhanced ability to remove biofilm, improved tissue healing has been a positive response to treatment when using air polishing.



What positive influence has investing in this technology had on the clinician's daily workflow?

When discussing ergonomics, the HuFriedyGroup PWR Pair piezoelectric scaler and air polisher combination is making a significant impact. The effectiveness of this system decreases the amount of hand scaling required by the clinician, thus reducing fatigue and tension on the clinician's hands. Hand scaling is still a critical component of a comprehensive dental hygiene appointment. However, this technology supports the clinician both in efficacy and efficiency in the time spent providing treatment to each patient. The longevity of a clinician's career now has the potential to be maximized with reduced musculoskeletal strain through the use of this system.

How has the HuFriedyGroup air polisher transformed biofilm management in your patients?

The PWR Pair's air polishing technology is now providing clinicians with the opportunity to take proper care of implants as soon as they are placed. Peri-implantitis is a serious condition that affects numerous patients, and a critical aspect of the oral health care provider's role is to prevent disease. What was once a challenge for clinicians to maintain through hand instrumentation is now viewed as a solution. This technology allows clinicians to maintain health of implants, and the best way to prevent disease is to debride every implant in every patient with something that truly reaches the implant surfaces. The PWR Pair does just that, using glycine and erythritol powders that effectively remove biofilm from teeth and implant surfaces efficiently. It is critical for patients to be aware that, as providers, we cannot cure peri-implantitis, but we do have a solution to maintain the health of their implants.

Additionally, both patients and clinicians have noticed significant improvements in their gum tissue with reduced bleeding and inflammation.

Incorporating new technology can be challenging for all team members. What approach do you take when introducing a new practice modality, such as air polishing?

In order to provide optimal care to our patients, we must offer them current evidence-based technology that prioritizes their oral health. Patients appreciate the use of scientifically proven technology and can truly feel the difference with this system. Embracing new technology and bringing the team together for the common goal of providing the highest level of patient care makes incorporating new technology simple. Patients will ultimately seek care in an office that has their best interest in mind, and seeing the addition of new technology like the HuFriedyGroup PWR Pair only supports that vision.

How do you help patients become comfortable with new technology and changes in treatment provided?

Educating patients on the importance of oral health and how new technology can improve their overall wellness is critical to helping them understand. When inflammation and bleeding are reduced, patients can see and feel the difference with this system. Information on the oral systemic connection is becoming more prevalent, and patients want to do everything they can to ensure optimal oral health. For patients with implants, they invest a lot of time and money in having an implant placed and intend to prolong their health. Periimplant mucositis was once a condition that ultimately progressed into peri-implantitis. However, this condition can now be reversed with this technology, which is an incredible benefit for patients and clinicians striving to maintain health of implants and wanting to prevent larger conditions like peri-implantitis.

How can HuFriedyGroup power instrumentation be adapted from patient to patient based on their specific oral health care needs?

For patients that present with significant calcium deposits, the piezoelectric scaler will be beneficial to ensure optimal removal. For patients who require biofilm removal, such as around implants and difficult-to-instrument periodontal pockets, the air polisher with glycine and erythritol powders will be essential. Some patients require both methods of instrumentation, so this technology can benefit all patients depending on their specific needs.

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