Preface

The Evolution of Technological Advancements in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

It has been suggested that we are what we repeatedly do, and excellence, then, is not an act but a habit. This is irreconcilable with Heraclitus of Ephesus’ notion that change is the only constant. Surgeons must possess a duality of nature that in 1 instance embraces habit to effect consistent results in the surgical theater and in the other allows for ingenuity to solve immediate challenges. A purely stepwise approach to surgery would yield devastating results when biology fails to follow the rules. This series provides information about technological advances that may become routine practice in the coming years.

Everett Rogers observed that technological advances are born in the midst of innovators, refined by early adopters, popularized by an early majority, standardized by the late majority, and occasionally phased out by laggards. Proximity to hubs of ingenuity, whether intentional or by chance, provides opportunities for clinicians to innovate or become early adopters in a technology. Social and economic factors may incline clinicians toward late majority adoption of new concepts. Personality, predictability, and risk tolerance further influence a practitioner’s willingness to alter their current practice.

The editors’ intent for this series is to review and summarize selected technological advancements in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery that are either gaining popularity or infrequently discussed in our specialty. Given the rapidly changing trends in practice management, evolving management strategies and technologies used in practice management are also reviewed. We would like to thank the authors for their contributions and for unselfishly sharing their knowledge and expertise. It is our hope that this information presented within a single source will prove useful to all practicing oral and maxillofacial surgeons, including those in training.

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