

Dentistry & Oral Care

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Battle of the bugs

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There have been many advances in the management of head and neck infections over the past decade. New classes of antimicrobial agents, non-invasive imaging techniques, improved culturing methods are just some of the changes that have occurred which have enhanced dramatically our ability to diagnose and treat these infections with speed and accuracy. Concerns among the lay population regarding the perceived shifting of infectious disease patterns and their subsequent manifestations have become a topic of discussion in the news media. For example, Time magazine has suggested that antibiotics are so overused that the human body has become saturated and that the human immune system is so depressed that it provides an environment for the creation of “bacterial monsters”. The impressive ability of bacteria and viruses to adapt, change and mutate in response to our pharmacologic bombardment is a testimony to the complex and unpredictable nature of these microbes. For every new drug we formulate, resistance develops to an older and often used one. For every organism that we eradicate, another one suddenly emerges to take its place. To those of us in the clinical trenches, it seems that we are in a war with an ever-expanding number of increasingly virulent and destructive microbes.

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Surgical approaches to speed up orthodontic treatment in adults

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Recently there has been an increase in the search for shorter treatments, which led researchers to study the possibility of speeding up mechanisms for resorption and bone apposition and the variation of chemical mediators capable of stimulating colony formation of osteoclasts and osteoblasts. This lecture aims to describe the current state of science and clinical evidence available at the time to base the procedures described. Biological principles of tooth movement followed by the description of the surgical procedures (e.g. micro-perforations, piezotomy, piezo-puncture, corticotomy and periodontal accelerated osteogenic orthodontics) and its influence on the behavior of cells and biological mediators as well as current status in clinical practice will be described.

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