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Enhancing Technology

Don't Look Back

by Paul Feuerstein, DMD

Let me mention one amazing product that I saw in February in Chicago. An Austrian company, Life Optics, has developed a pair of head-mounted electronic loupes called the Varioscope. These loupes reminded me of "Robo Cop" - when you put them on and look at a patient's mouth, you gaze through an eye-mounted video screen that zooms then quickly auto focuses on the area in which you are working.

Original scopes were used in brain surgery, which requires precise vision. They range to 9x, and the image is sharp. Since I wear 2.5-3x loupes, it took little time for me to become accustomed to these on the typodont. If I have an opportunity to conduct a clinical demonstration, I will report on the results. Various models of the Varioscope range in cost from \$11,000 to \$30,000, depending on features. There are descriptions and videos on the company's Web site (www.lifeoptics.com).



Surgeon uses the Life Optics Varioscope M5.