

Dr. Jeroen Peplinkhuizen (December 2006):



“The Varioscope® has become a sine-qua-non for my work”

I have been working with the head-mounted dental microscope Varioscope® M5^{dental} of the Austrian manufacturer Life Optics® since 2005. Previously I used either a stand microscope or 4-times magnifying surgical loupes for all implantological treatments, but I missed features such as depth of field, autofocus, shadow-free illumination and above all flexibility in posture and working distance. Particularly with regard to moving patients, stand microscopes do neither provide any flexibility in posture nor any depth of field. When I think of special treatments, such as a sinus lift procedure, where the exact positioning of the bone is rather difficult, I can hardly imagine working without the Varioscope®, now that I have got some practice with it.

After a period of 14 days to get familiar with the product, I now use the Varioscope® for every implant and every implantological surgery, with only one exception: the placing of implants with the Nobel Guide surgical template. Today I use the Varioscope® three times a day for operations lasting 1.5 hours on average and with an autofocus magnification of 4 to 5 times. In this context, I came to highly appreciate the advantages of automatic focus adjustment and I wouldn't do without them any more. In addition, the Varioscope® M5^{dental} offers great depth of field and excellent illumination (integrated, coaxial light) for every application – I no longer use my surgical lamp.

However, working with the Varioscope® not only pleases me and facilitates my work, my team and my patients also appreciate its numerous advantages.

On the one hand, the integrated autofocus video camera enables my assistant to follow the whole treatment on the monitor from my perspective and to view poorly visible areas (e.g. left lower jaw, sinus lift) or operations that are difficult to watch. Previously, my assistant was not able to get an exact and shadow-free view of the whole working area, and we were often hindering each other in our work. The head-mounted dental microscope provides effortless and ergonomic viewing and working for both doctor and assistant, ensuring an undisturbed workflow between doctor and assistant. This contributes significantly to quality assurance.

On the other hand, we are able to provide our patients with a documentation DVD of their treatment, which is another major contribution to quality assurance and enhancement.

However, these user videos not only serve a forensic purpose. Since the videos are recorded from my perspective, they are excellent teaching material for the courses I hold 1 – 2 times per month to introduce participants to the new treatment possibilities offered by the Varioscope®.

In addition to the documentation function provided by the integrated camera, I consider the mobility of the Varioscope® the greatest advantage over other viewing aids in the field of dentistry. Previously, I also used to work with stand microscopes, but I felt restricted by the size of the microscope, its unwieldiness, its lack in mobility and the lack of space for proper positioning. Moreover it was quite difficult to place the microscope properly at the patient location in order to achieve an ideal working distance. The Varioscope® enables me to overcome these difficulties and limitations.

In conclusion I have to say that without the Varioscope® I feel hindered in my work.