

# THE MAGICAL PRACTICE BUILDER

## PAIN-FREE COMMITMENT

**Julian Webber writes for PPD about his commitment to pain-free endodontics and top tips for his 'couldn't do without' item, The Wand**

**I**t's far easier now to do a root canal than it ever was before, thanks to all the fancy instruments, gizmos and gadgets that we have. However, the basic principles remain exactly the same.

One of the biggest advances is the advent of technology which has made it possible to anaesthetise the patient so that there is no discomfort, whether from the anaesthetic itself or the treatment.

I use The Wand and have done for the last

13 years. What appealed to me originally was that it is very non-invasive. I feel I can give an injection absolutely painlessly without the need for a topical anaesthetic. The variety of different injection techniques available with The Wand, especially in and around the palatal area, are innovative and very well accepted by the patients - much more so than conventional syringe anaesthetic delivery systems.

### TECHNIQUE

How it works, in essence, is that the anaesthetic is delivered ahead of the needle. A technique is recommended of pushing on the tissue before you actually start the injection and starting to inject before you pierce the tissue. So a topical anaesthetic itself is delivered. I find that technique excellent for all Wand recommended protocols - which are numerous. And it is a big practice builder.

The patients love it and always comment positively on it.

There is always a learning curve with something new, but I would say it was minimal with regard to The Wand. I particularly like the new Wand, the STA system - the ease of giving intra-ligamental anaesthesia and the feedback it gives me - so I know I am actually in the periodontal ligament - it is very worthwhile and certainly at any stage of the endodontic procedure the intra-ligamental technique with the STA Wand alone is more than adequate.

### TRULY PAINLESS

I don't know what percentage of Wand users there are in the UK, but I think it should be

### JULIAN WEBBER'S TOP TIPS FOR THE WAND

- Maximise the use of palatal and periodontal ligament injections as they numb the tooth and not the mouth
- When injecting into the palate, press a cotton bud (The Wand is supplied with tipped applicators) against the back of the bevel to create pressure anaesthesia and to catch drops
- Another technique for preventing the anaesthetic dripping into the patient's mouth when injecting into tight tissue is to leave the aspirate button on at the end of the injection. This causes the anaesthetic to be sucked inwards. Tap the foot pedal and withdraw the needle after three beeps then lift the handpiece out of the mouth
- When carrying out a block, place the needle on the mucosa, then rotate the handpiece several times through an arc of 180 degrees. This equalises the pressure on the needle bevel, allowing it to go straight in to the injection site
- It's possible to conceal The Wand from phobics and nervous patients. This can be achieved by removing a section of the plastic handpiece so you can hide the rest of the handpiece and needle inside your hand. It's advisable to carry out this process for PDL and palatal injections as it enables even better control and improves access
- If you use 2.2ml cartridges always keep a spare adaptor so that you are not left with an unusable Wand if you lose the only one
- Avoid running out of handpieces by hiding a number, say 15, so that you have a buffer stock if you use all the others up. This will ensure you do not run out whilst waiting for the next delivery.



*Julian Webber BDS MS (Endo) is the Director of the Harley Street Centre for Endodontics, a state of the art facility dedicated to endodontic excellence. He is registered with the GDC as a Specialist in Endodontics and lectures widely on the subject.*

[www.roottreatmentuk.com](http://www.roottreatmentuk.com)



Julian Webber says his patients always comment on the pain-free experience offered by The Wand

high. I always advocate it - I talk about it in my lectures, I show images and I always recommend the UK distributor, DPS. I suppose it is like anything, it is the initial cost

that puts people off. And as there is a learning curve, if a dentist doesn't master it straight away, it goes in the drawer. I can only say that it is worth persevering with because you can reassure patients with complete confidence when you say there will be no discomfort.

Any anaesthetic technique should be painless; with The Wand STA it always is. It uses the same amount of anaesthetic and it takes the same amount of time as a conventional syringe, perhaps marginally less. The faster you are giving the local anaesthetic,

the much greater opportunity there is for discomfort during the delivery, which is a common complaint.

The Wand STA automatically reduces the speed at which I can administer the solution and therefore keeps the opportunity for pain at bay. So for me speed is not the issue. It is the fact that with the technology as it is, I can give a truly painless injection and that is all I am really interested in.

For more information on The Wand, please contact Dental Practice Systems on 01438 820550 or visit [www.d-p-s.uk.com](http://www.d-p-s.uk.com)

To ask a question or comment on this article please send an email to: [comments@ppdentistry.com](mailto:comments@ppdentistry.com)



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