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Pearls for your Practice

These products could make a huge difference in how you practice. Find out what Dr. Joshua Austin has tested for you.

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Calaject by Aseptico

It's 2019. We have self-driving cars. We have phones that we can use to get anything we want delivered at any time. We can see Tupac in concert again with holograms! Why are we stuck in 1964 with our delivery of local anesthetic? Calaject is one of the best candidates yet to take us into the 21st century of local anesthesia.

The name Calaject comes from the term *computer-assisted local anesthesia*. It comes in the form of a small piece of equipment that can transform your patient experience. The first comparison that will pop into your head is the Wand, also sold by Aseptico. The Wand was revolutionary. However,

it had a drawback: consumables. The biggest problem with the Wand was being locked into a single-use needle and tube that needed to be changed for every patient. That disposable cost for the Wand drove up the price per use. In my Pearl about the Wand, I suggested that fee-for-service practices could simply raise their fees by \$5–\$6 per visit. Unfortunately, most of us are locked into some sort of fee schedule, which could make that difficult.

The Calaject has no disposable fees! You can use the needle tip of your choosing, and there is no disposable tubing. That makes the per-use cost of the Calaject on par with a traditional syringe (obviously after the cost of the Calaject itself). And Calaject offers some other significant advantages.

Like the Wand, the Calaject automates the pressure at which the anesthetic is injected. There are three separate programs on the Calaject, and it can be used for infiltrations, blocks, palatal, and intraligamentary injections. Program 1 is mainly used for intraligamentary and palatal injections. The speed of flow is considered slow and very slow. Using Program 1, it takes 3–5 minutes to empty a cartridge. This seems really slow, but this is what is needed for an intraligamentary injection. If done properly, this mode can give you the elusive single-tooth anesthesia that we are looking for with these types of systems. Program 2 is used for infiltrations. It starts slowly for a few seconds, and then the speed slowly increases. It takes around one minute to empty a cartridge. Program 3 is for blocks and allows you to switch between two different speeds. It starts slow and can be gradually increased with a tap of the foot pedal. You can easily switch between speeds midinjection if desired. You can deliver a block in as little as 45 seconds if you desire.

The Calaject looks super cool. It was obviously designed by a minimalist, almost in a Bauhaus-inspired style. It's small and it looks great on the countertop. However, I think the Calaject is best stored on a small cart, so it can be moved to whichever operatory needs anesthesia. There's no need to purchase a separate one for every room. Its small size makes it mobile. The unit is probably a third of the size of the Wand.

We know that our patients dread nothing more than the injection. If we can make that process better for them, their overall experience is better—which means happier patients who are more likely to refer their friends and family. If I can give them that experience without dropping tons of coin on disposables for the life of the machine, even better. Ground-rule double to center field for Calaject!