

“Make it easy with Syntette”

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We are talking about a synthesis of two curettes, an instrument that has become many dentists' favourite tool. Here the inventor of the instrument is telling you about the creation of LM-Syntette.

After five and a half years studies in Germany, I started as a dentist in Örebro, Sweden, in 1972. In Germany periodontology was not very highly appreciated. Back home the situation was totally different, here periodontology was extremely popular. This was very much thanks to Lars Jacobsson, the father of dental hygienists and also the father of approximately 15 perio specialists. I was one of them. I graduated 1980 and stayed in Örebro until 1984. Thereafter I was tempted by a position as the Head of the Periodontological Department in Västervik Hospital.

The main principal of successful treatment of periodontitis is reducing the amount of bacteria. This applies both on gingival margins as well as in gingival pockets, i.e. a commitment from both the patient and the dentist/hygienist is required. But this is where the problems start. The patient's cooperation and the dental expert's skills are crucial for the result of the treatment. The patient is now faced with a frenetic polishing with numerous different aids – and the dental expert with several hand instruments in all possible and impossible forms and designs. This is how I got the idea, couldn't there be an easier way of doing it?

A simple thought

I started looking at different instruments. Design and function – what was the prevailing thought. One of the main principals was to work with a face surface curved approximately 20 degree upwards. To be able to reach deep pockets, the instrument shank and working end needed to be of a suitable design. Special finishing curettes Gracey 11/12 and 13/14 had been on the market since many years. Two popular instruments which, however, demanded switching instrument in the same interproximal space: Gracey 11/12 for mesial surfaces and Gracey 13/14 for distal surfaces. A simple thought – combine the instruments! A synthesis of two curettes – a Syntette!

Meeting on the train

The idea turned into a sketch on a paper - that ended up in a drawer. But then, what a coincidence! I was standing in a crowded suburban train on my way back to Stockholm Central Station from the Swedental Dental Congress, sometimes during the 80-ties. And right there, beside me, stood a man whom I recognised from LM-Instruments, Pekka Kangasniemi. We started discussing curettes, and we really understood each other.

An all round instrument

First LM-Syntette Standard was launched. A curette that later was provided with a more slender working end and longer lower shank: LM-Syntette Mini. LM-Syntette Mini is now the only curette I use for both concave and convex scaling. An all round instrument for all surfaces in the total dentition. You can easily shift from tooth to tooth without changing instrument. LM-Syntette is also suitable for both vertical and horizontal techniques.

In theory treating periodontitis is simple but in practice a real challenge. It is essential to be precise and systematic. Using the right kind of instrument is not the only thing that matters, the instrument also needs to be sharp. Only then, scaling and curettage can be efficient!