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“Once upon a time,  
ceramic veneers were  
so thin, so thin, but so  
thin... that some did not  
even have to exist.”

The title message represents much more than an irony. More profoundly, it is a critique to the obsessive quest for beauty, to the technicism still so prevalent in Dentistry, and especially to the exaggerations and overtreatments as a consequence from a saturated market.

If, on the one hand, we marvel at the possibilities of acting thanks to technological advances, on the other, we have an increasing number of lectures and courses with mere expositions of operative sequences, accompanied by little

content or no critical sense. It is surreal to waste so much energy discussing whether the name of a prosthetic piece should be "contact lens", "laminare", or "veneers"! The same holds true for comparisons between materials belonging to different categories. Composite resins have always been, and will always be, an excellent choice, and comparing them to ceramics would be similar, in an increasingly distant past, to counteracting the amalgam with fused-metal restorations.

There is no doubt that ceramic laminates are an excellent treatment option when properly indicated. However, are there so many patients who really need this kind of intervention? Aren't many situations (and not just laminates) the result of the need for the dental surgeon to operate in such a saturated market with limited space in the public sector and an insatiable competitiveness in the private sector? What other reason could explain the existence of so many "how to" courses in our profession? In fact, the competition today invades the area of courses and lectures, which is why we have so many people who want to show what they can do.

Undoubtedly, Brazilian Dentistry has many good people with capability for teaching and operating. However, as in any other profession, we have many unprepared people. Within this scenario, another questioning becomes necessary: Are there so much students to fill such a vacancy

and pay for so many courses? As we can see, the saturated market in Brazilian Dentistry is a snowball, and if it continues this way, it will soon be necessary to say: "Once upon a time there were congresses with so many speakers, so many speakers, but so many speakers really, that there were some with only stages and no audience".

In this scenario, as important as discerning the ability of those who hold the microphone is to emphatically act on the issues that truly affect dentistry.

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