

Comfort Meets Performance: Real-World Benefits of LM's Instrument Design- A Practitioner's Perspective



Meet Amy Pecott, RDH

With 15 years of clinical expertise and an active membership in both the American and Michigan Dental Hygiene Associations, Amy brings a wealth of practical knowledge to hygiene instrumentation. Her passion for dental care extends globally through her impressive 12 volunteer missions to Guyana, South America. When she's not enhancing patient care with precision instruments, Amy channels her dexterity into watercolor painting and bridal hair styling - the same creative, hands-on approach she brings to her dental practice. Her unique blend of clinical excellence and artistic sensibility makes her insights on LM's ergonomic instruments particularly valuable.

How has the ergonomic design of the LM-ErgoSense handles transformed your approach to scaling and root planing procedures?

Amy- The LM Sharp Diamond instruments have become a vital part of my scaling and root planing procedures. The ergonomic handles have significantly reduced the strain that can occur during challenging scaling and root planing appointments. They are incredibly comfortable to hold while featuring a pleasant silicone grip.

What clinical benefits have you observed when using LM's Sharp Diamond instruments that don't require sharpening?

Amy- With the hygiene schedule being quite full and the high demand for hygienists' time, finding opportunities to sharpen instruments has become increasingly difficult. We all understand the risk of practitioner strain and the clinical consequences of dull instruments (i.e., burnished calculus), and these instruments have provided such relief. They perform exceptionally well while also being low maintenance.

How do you integrate LM's Dual Gracey instruments into your periodontal therapy protocols?

Amy- The Dual Gracey has been extremely helpful! I love that it essentially offers multiple instruments in one!

Can you discuss your experience with LM's color-coding system and how it has streamlined your instrument selection during procedures?

Amy- It is incredibly helpful that, once you establish which instruments to use, a quick glance allows you to know exactly which one to grab. This minimizes the time you might spend searching when all your instrument handles look alike.

What specific advantages have you found when using LM's Mini and Micro Mini-series instruments for accessing narrow periodontal pockets?

Amy- The Mini and Micro Mini instruments are very effective in reaching deep, hard-to-access areas.

How has the tactile sensitivity of LM instruments affected your ability to detect subgingival calculus?

Amy- I believe my ability to detect subgingival calculus has significantly improved while using the LM instruments. The handle design, although slightly larger than others I have used previously, features a medical-grade silicone that provides a very grippy texture. This allows me to truly feel the calculus in a way that is different from before. The Flexplorer is the perfect addition to any hygiene setup, as it is very thin, and the sensation of calculus detection travels up the handle. I genuinely feel like a better practitioner with this explorer! The silicone, grippy handles indeed make calculus detection easier.

Could you explain your technique for utilizing LM's Syntette instruments for both universal scaling and area-specific debridement?

Amy- I appreciate that the Syntette (Dual Sided Gracey) effectively functions as a universal instrument. I faced an especially challenging pocket to access on #31, and the Syntette seamlessly fit into that pocket. After that, I gained a lot of confidence in all of the Syntette instruments!



What considerations guide your selection between LM's various curette designs when performing non-surgical periodontal therapy?

Amy- My favorite curettes and sickle scalers for each hygiene setup include the Bernhardt 5/6, Sharpjack, Nebraska, and Anterior Nevi with the disc. For most cases, I feel this set allows me to conduct an extremely thorough prophylaxis. In other situations, particularly with more periodontally involved patients, I incorporate the Posterior Nevi and Dual-Sided Gracey instruments.

How do you maintain optimal control and reduce hand fatigue during full-mouth debridement when using LM instruments?

Amy- I believe the instruments themselves help prevent hand fatigue. They are ergonomically designed, allowing for proper instrumentation without tiring, making them ideal for every hygiene procedure.

Amy's experience demonstrates how the right instruments can transform daily practice, reducing fatigue while enhancing clinical outcomes. Discover what a difference ergonomic design and lasting sharpness could make in your patient care journey.



Headwinds for Dental Implant Market: Price and Patient Preferences

The dental implant market faces significant headwinds despite projected growth, as economic factors and changing patient preferences reshape restorative dentistry. Several trends are challenging traditional implant procedures, especially in premium and full-arch restoration segments.

Insurance Limitations Constrain Market Potential

Insurance coverage represents a major barrier to implant adoption. Most dental plans cover only 10-50% of costs after deductibles, with annual maximums of \$1,500-\$2,000. This leaves patients with out-of-pocket expenses of \$1,000-\$3,000 per implant including abutments and crowns.

"The gap between insurance coverage and actual costs creates a huge barrier," says Dr. Eleanor Thornton, a Chicago prosthodontist. "Patients who would benefit medically from implants often choose less ideal alternatives based purely on cost."

Despite 240 million Americans having dental insurance, only about 25% of tooth loss cases result in implant placements due to these economic constraints. Full-arch procedures, costing \$20,000-\$30,000 per arch, are particularly affected.

Patients Seeking Economical Alternatives

Implant centers report patients increasingly choosing more affordable, less invasive options over premium full-arch solutions. Fixed-hybrid overdentures supported by fewer implants are gaining popularity as a middle ground between traditional dentures and full-arch implants.

"We've seen a 30% increase in requests for partial implant solutions over two years," notes Dr. Michael Chen of a Dallas dental group. "Patients are making value-based decisions rather than pursuing gold standard treatments."

Technological advancements, including digital workflows and immediate loading protocols, have made these economical alternatives more accessible and predictable.

Rising Concerns About Implant Failures

Another challenge is increasing implant failure rates. Though the overall rate remains low at around 5%, concerns about biological rejection, peri-implantitis, and complications from poor placement or material quality are making patients hesitant.

Patients choosing cheaper materials or less experienced practitioners experience higher failure rates, which spreads through word-of-mouth and online reviews, potentially deterring prospective patients.

"We're seeing more patients seeking second opinions after complications with discount implant services," says Dr. Sarah Johnson, a periodontist. "This creates situations where additional costs are needed to correct failures, reinforcing perceptions that implants are expensive and risky."

Industry Response and Future Outlook

In response, the industry is pivoting toward value-tier products, alternative restorative methods, and digital workflows. Technologies like guided surgery software help practitioners reduce costs while maintaining quality.

"The future likely lies in finding the sweet spot between affordability and quality," says industry analyst Robert Simmons. "Manufacturers producing reliable systems at lower prices will likely gain market share."

While the overall market continues growing due to an aging population and increased oral health awareness, growth will be uneven across segments. Premium manufacturers may need to reshape their business models, while mid-range and economy providers could see faster growth. For patients, this means more choices at various price points but also requires greater diligence in research to ensure quality outcomes at reasonable prices.

Article References:

<https://garrisdental-my.sharepoint.com/:u:p/pwilkinson/Ed6NljXVOF5BjDp0XSMgAecBhvNb-uyLWyAMRtTdHQf5fg>





Tips & Tricks:

<https://youtu.be/ZKVwNI7AFts?feature=shared>

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