

SEEING IS BELIEVING

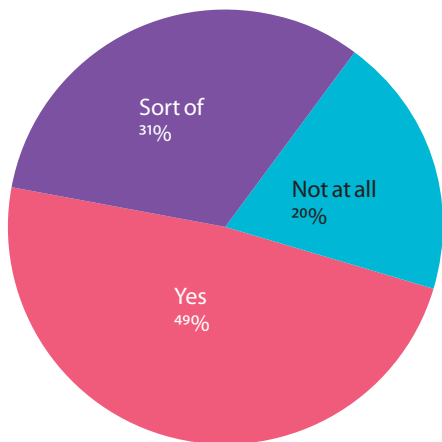
Can dental hygienists live without loupes?
Compiled by THAIS CARTER

Magnification is quickly becoming as essential as the instruments dental hygienists use to treat their patients. While nearly 80% of our respondents indicated that the dentists they work with use loupes, only 16% went on to purchase this product for their dental hygienists. The vast majority of respondents purchased their own loupes—but only half indicated they knew what to look for in a “good” pair.

What respondents did seem to understand was the inherent ergonomic benefits. Properly fitted loupes will not only bring the patient’s oral cavity into better focus, but also will promote improved posture and optimal ergonomics for a long and productive dental hygiene career. Regardless of style—flip-up or through-the-lens—the most important factors, ergonomically speaking, are the working distance (measured from the opera-



Do you feel as though you know what qualities to look for in a “good” pair of loupes?



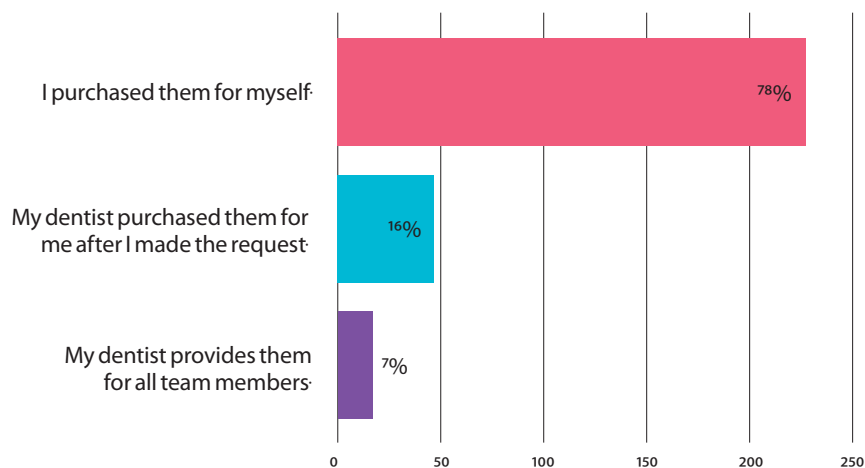
“I’m not as comfortable with loupes as I’d like to be.”

- anonymous respondent

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The January 2011 Loupes Survey was sent via e-mail to 15,000 dental hygienists in the U.S. The survey was completed by 545 people.

If you do use loupes, how did they become part of your toolbox?



82%

of respondents said they understand the connection between magnification and ergonomics. Another 15% said they “sort of” understood, while 4% said “not at all.”

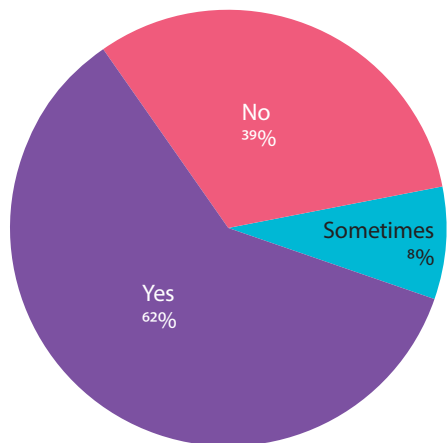
Have you asked?

Before you buy, you should know...

- △ How is the working distance adjusted?
- △ How heavy are the loupes?
- △ How are the loupes cleaned or disinfected?
- △ Can a headlight be attached to the loupe?
- △ Is there a special training program for dental hygienists?

Getty Images / John Rensten

Do you use loupes as part of your clinical routine?



80%

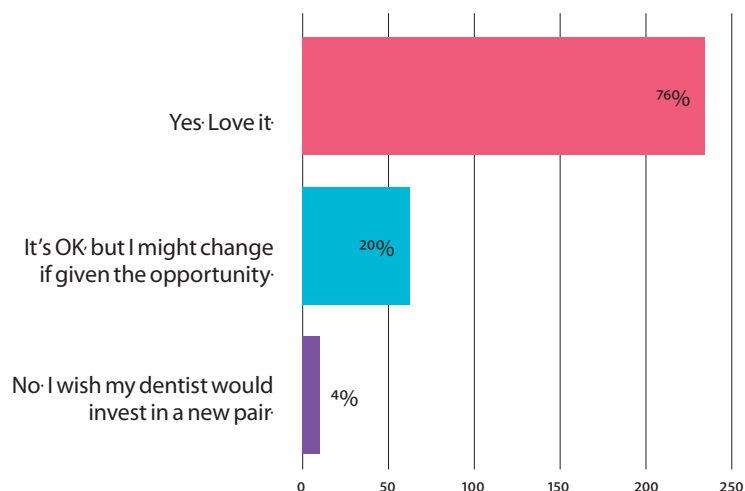
of respondents said the dentists they work with do use loupes.

Source: January 2011 DPR Loupes Survey

“I can’t afford my own pair, but I’ve loved them when I have used them.”

- anonymous respondent

Do you like the loupes you use?



Don't just look — TRY!

When it comes to loupes, you should take advantage of upcoming tradeshows to actually walk the floor, visit the manufacturers, and try before you buy. Lucky for you, the Chicago Dental Society's 2011 Midwinter Meeting is coming up on Feb. 24-26, 2011.

For those of you who can't make it to Chicago, mark your calendars...

- △ March 24-26, 2011 — Thomas P. Hinman Dental Meeting, Atlanta, GA
- △ April 28-30, 2011 — Star of the North Dental Meeting, St. Paul, MN
- △ May 12-14, 2011 — CDA Presents: The Art and Science of Dentistry, Anaheim, CA