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## PREFACE

I don't think anyone in Italy can contradict the fact that I have been one of the pioneers in teaching dentists the techniques of esthetic medicine, as I have been doing since 2006-2007.

After following my practical classes or taking the Master's in the esthetics of oral and perioral tissues in dentistry that is offered by the University of Padua, so many dentists daily and correctly use the techniques of esthetic medicine in their studies to complete their dental treatment plans.

Over these years I have found, as always happens to pioneers, numerous supporters (for the most part) and numerous opponents who believe that this interest of mine is not well-directed, if not even out of place, providing the definite article to a course on esthetics that in fact has not always been, even for me, within the limits of what a "degree in dentistry" has provided since its origins.

Today numerous refresher initiatives intended for dentists flourish at every esthetic or dental conference with sessions that are created for and focused on them.

Therefore, I take this occasion to highlight the philosophy I have had more than one occasion to express at conferences, courses and numerous sessions that at this point proliferate in the field of esthetic dentistry:

**Dentists do not have to change jobs to become esthetic doctors, instead they have to learn how to be even more complete esthetic dentists, if possible.**

Thus the techniques of esthetic medicine that are described thoroughly in this book come to be a part of a broad specialty, dentistry, that in the modern age cannot do without also treating the perioral tissues as a completion of dental treatment plans.

In fact, it is unthinkable that after long intra- and perioral work the dentist would not be able to finish this work, to frame this intraoral work with filler or reducing by just a little the force of the masticatory muscles with the skillful use of botulinum toxin. The patient will understand the rationale perfectly and willingly go to a specialist of the perioral area to then continue the strictly esthetic work by a specialist in this field, an esthetic doctor, without there being need for the dentist to endeavor in indications that don't regard him.

Therefore this volume comes into being in the view of a reciprocal and important collaboration with all the other specialists of the area, whether dermatologists or plastic surgeons based on respect for each one's role, interests and specific knowledge and has the goal to emphasize, describe and share the techniques that in my humble opinion are and must become a part of the technical and clinical baggage of the modern dentist.

This book has been studied and written and should be in any case interesting even for those colleagues of esthetic medicine who want to know more about the matter. I don't want to tell all my readers how fast techniques change and are updated, especially basing the treatments on practical experience. There are thousands of renewed or completely changed practices in respect to my previous books and therefore they are of certain interest even for physicians, dermatologists or esthetic doctors who are interested in the rejuvenation of the middle and lower thirds of the face.

My approach, as in all of my books is strictly practical, so that my colleagues, especially those who have taken the courses, can find inside it a useful compendium in order to put into practice what they have learned or find the fundamental steps of esthetic techniques.

Instead, they will not find techniques that are not of specific dental competence, those which I often hear dentists call "pure" but which, in my humble opinion, don't really have anything to do with true esthetic dentistry.

Hoping I have been useful in completing this slice of strictly dental competence, I remain at disposition for any further discussion, with the aim of improving what I hope is a forthcoming second edition.

*Alessio Redaelli*