

There Is a Difference

By Bruce Cohen, D.P.M.

After four years of college, four years of podiatry school, and a three-year residency program, many podiatrists will realize that many podiatry patients do not require screws, plates or orthotics. Some patients need their toe nails cut safely, hygienically and properly by a professional. Not all patients have acute conditions. Some patients will be diabetic and many will not. Some people with mycotic, cryptotic, and onychauxic nails need help and would rather go to a doctor than the nail salon. Especially with all the negative publicity nail salons are getting lately.

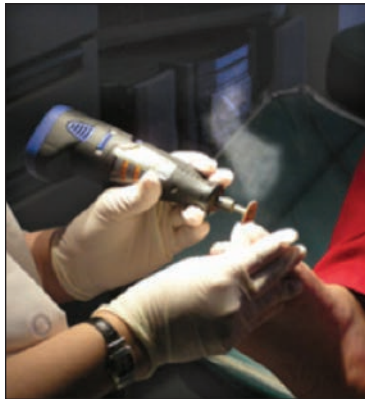


Figure 1: Dremel Drill

In podiatry school today, much time is spent on medicine and surgery and not as much is taught about the newer types of nail drills and burr technology that is available. A drill with a built-in vacuum is necessary for use on thickened nails, for the health of the patient, staff and the doctor. An old-fashioned Dremel drill is not appropriate for a doctor to use on people. They were never designed for medical use, but they are excellent for home repairs.

Manicure and Pedicure drills are light duty drills and cannot provide the most efficient torque and speed of the burr needed for more aggressive debriding demands in a foot care practice.

Water Spray Drills are also available. With Water Spray Drills the burr and the involved area are cooled by a mist spray of distilled water. Some podiatrists prefer the Water Spray Drill when they work on hardened



Figure 2: E-file Manicure Drill

skin because they can use more aggressive burs and work at faster drill speeds without pain to the patient. In busy podiatry practices there are having both a Vacuum and

Water Spray Drill is a big advantage. Since we are the “foot experts” we should have the finest equipment.

In my hands I have found that the BNA Water Spray and the Vacuum Drill are surgical quality and have lightweight well-balanced handpieces. The vacuum is built directly into the handpiece of the dust extraction drill, and with the Water Spray Drill the mist comes from the tip of the handpiece. Both have variable speed motors which are quiet, with good torque and minimal to no vibration. The ergonomic design of the handpiece gives the podiatrist precise control and dexterity with less chance of injury to the patient.



Figure 3: BNA BURZ Waterspray Drill

Medical burs should be consistently well balanced and remain sharp, even after being autoclaved. BNA Burz have been shown to remain sharp after being autoclaved multiple times. Not all drills and burs on the market are medical grade or meet FDA standards or are FDA-registered.

There is a difference.

Vacuum Drill, Water Spray Drill and all BNA Burz are classified as “medical devices” and are FDA-registered. They are also ISO/IEC/CE. This offers



Figure 4: BNA BURZ Vacuum Drill

There Is a Difference *(continued)*

medical grade consistency in the medico-legal world should the need arise. Some non-regulated industrial burs may not retain their sharpness, can break easily, and most are not concentric. Dull, slightly bent burs can cause vibration, pain to the patient, and damage to the handpiece.

Nail care is something podiatrists do, and we should have the finest equipment available for our patients and staff.

Recent articles have discussed the fact that surgical treatment and reimbursement is lower now than in the past. In addition to surgery, podiatrists should be the primary providers of non-surgical foot care. Toenails are an important part of that. Your drill is an investment. Using modern-looking equipment enhances a doctor's image to the patient. (Most dental offices today do not use the same type of drill

that they used in the 1950's and 60's. they have modernized.) Whether the Dr. or the doctor's assistant provides nail care, the drill will be used every day and should last many years. Nail care is something podiatrists do, and we should have the finest equipment available for our patients and staff. There is a difference.

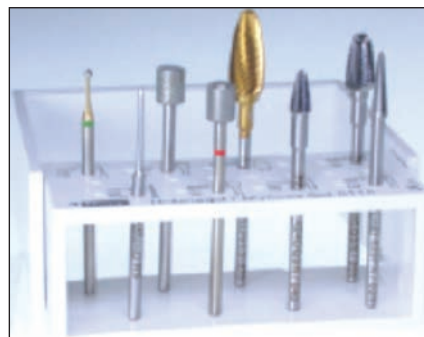


Figure 5: BNA BURZ Assortment of Burs

References

Harvey C K. Comparison of the effectiveness of nail dust extractors. *Journal of American Podiatric Medical Association* 1993;83:669-673. [PubMed]

Blair J, Burrow J G, Millar N A. et al Efficiency and effectiveness of dust extraction systems of podiatric nail drills. *Journal of British Podiatric Medicine* 1999;54:53-60.

For more information visit www.bnaburz.com, call 800-971-2216 or [click here](#).