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## ERGONOMICS OF INFORMED CONSENT

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*The proper setting in communicating with the patient is critical to most of usual patient-physician relationship, but is of utmost importance in dentistry. In fact, due to the sometimes hypertechnical environment that obviously reminds the patient of the operative structures of surgical units (even the most dentist-oriented ergonomic chairs), it is reasonable that the average subject might be psychologically conditioned with varying degrees of anxiety and proportionate impairment of clear mental representation of the items of information. While delegating to a close-future work the statistical demonstration of the amount of bias in understanding information due to different settings, by the way of a model based on checking the amount of actual understanding and memorizing by patients to whom a bulk of data may be given in different locations in the dental practice, we now suggest to deliver the patients with the most delicate material in terms of informed consent not while s/he is sitting on the dental chair but – if feasible - in the secretary room or - even better – right in the physician's office.*

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