

## Tips from practicing dentists on using products to the best advantage

### Product Category: INSTRUMENTS, OPERATING, AND ACCESSORIES

**Dentist:** John L. Alonge, M.S., DDS  
**Practice location:** Erie, Pa.  
**Type of practice:** Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery  
**Years in practice:** 31  
**System/product to be described:** D-Lux Elevators  
**Manufacturer:** A. Titan  
**Company Website:** www.atitan.com

### Description of this product and its benefits to the dental patient:

The D-Lux luxation elevators by A. Titan are thoughtfully designed instruments made of 100% USA 440A stainless steel. They come in straight and slightly curved tip designs of 2, 3, 4 and 5mm with small ergonomically designed handles that reinforce controlled apical luxation tactile forces rather than the traditional stronger perpendicular elevator forces.

Generations of dentists have read in their dental textbooks and have been taught by their instructors to insert an elevator perpendicular to the tooth and use strong, slow controlled force to achieve displacement of the tooth from the socket. This can often result in damage to bone, teeth and dental restorations.

In 1996 Dr. Bo Ericsson of Sweden introduced The Original Luxator with explicit instructions that this instrument was not an elevator and cannot be used as an elevator. This bulky handled surgical instrument with a special steel that required sharpening came with illustrations that were in stark contrast to what had been taught to all dentists,



namely inserting the tip of this sharp instrument along the long axis of the tooth using relatively strong pressure and small axial (5-10°) rotation into the periodontium. This heralded the advent of what has been called the atraumatic extraction.

Most manufacturers misunderstood the total concept of the technique and introduced their brand periostomes in a marketing attempt to jump on the atraumatic extraction technique bandwagon. A. Titan has taken this concept to the next level with the introduction of their D-Lux line that allow for what I have been touting as “minimally invasive exodontia”.

### Step-by-step description of how this product is used with a patient:

After the gingival sulcus is gently released with a thin periosteal elevator the tip of the D-Lux is inserted vertically and pressure is exerted apically along the long axis of the root(s) with the intent of disrupting the periodontal attachment apparatus (“PDL”). Take caution to avoid the buccal/labial aspect of the tooth as this may result in unwanted fracture and subsequent loss of crestal alveolar bone. Initially one may not appreciate any movement however repeating this action circumferentially; preferably at

the line angles one will initiate luxation of the root. Apical retention forceps are then applied to the tooth/root and the careful controlled forces of exodontia easily complete the extraction.