In 1931, he...
Nowadays, Walkhoff is still considered as one of the founding fathers of endodontics. He is notably responsible for the shift to an everyday use of camphorated chlorophenol to sterilise the canals and in 1896, accompanied with Fritz Giesel, he was the author of the first dental radiograph.

Fourteen days after Roentgen’s first publication (December 28, 1895), Walkhoff captured the first dental radiograph of his own teeth. For this, he asked Fritz Giesel, a professor of physics also coming from Braunschweig, to assist him. He asked him to take a radiograph of his molars. Little pieces were cut from the original plates and were then wrapped to keep them as a testimony. Walkhoff received the first intraoral rays after a 25-minute exposure. In his account, he reported: “It was a real torture but I felt tremendously happy when I saw the results. It was when I weighed up the importance of Roentgen’s discovery for future dentistry.” However, this application did not proceed smoothly and was not without side effects for his generous “guinea-pig” subsequently lost his hair [2].

The use of X-rays for medical pictures spread worldwide from 1896. France had its first X-ray equipment in 1897. Indeed, on that year, Dr Béclère settled some X-ray equipment which aimed at capturing radiographs of the chest and lungs for the early detection of tuberculosis, in his service of general medicine at the Tenon hospital [2].

Acknowledgment
None.

Conflict of Interest
None.

References