Cleaning the Turbine Rotor Chuck (Bur Hold) to Help Prolong Handpiece Turbine Spindle Life & Reduce Frequency of Stuck Burs

Cleaning the turbine chuck on air drive and electric handpieces will improve bur insertion and removal. Use handpiece cleaner, or alcohol as a cleaning fluid, and a proxy brush to swab out the handpiece spindle bore. Press and hold the bur release button on your handpiece to prevent turbine spindle movement.

As you can see from the photo on the left, this Midwest Stylus handpiece turbine spindle bore has heavy debris buildup. It was last serviced a little over a year, since this serviced was preformed. The customer did regular handpiece maintenance, but over time, debris still accumulates in the head. It would appear as if this cleaning routine on this particular handpiece turbine spindle had not been done for a long time.

Once you've swabbed out the bore of the handpiece turbine spindle, wipe it off with a clean cloth as shown. Repeat as needed until the brush no longer shows debris on the bristles. Continue with your regular handpiece cleaning procedure, and sterilize.

If you can, depending on the number of handpieces in your rotation and how busy your practice is, try to conduct this turbine spindle chuck cleaning once or twice a week. Of course, you'll get a feel for determining how often you need to do this procedure as compared to how dirty the spindle bore was the last time you cleaned the same handpiece.