

Leveraging digital technology

Nishan Dixit highlights the key benefits of using digital technology in practice to enhance the patient journey

CLINICAL TIPS

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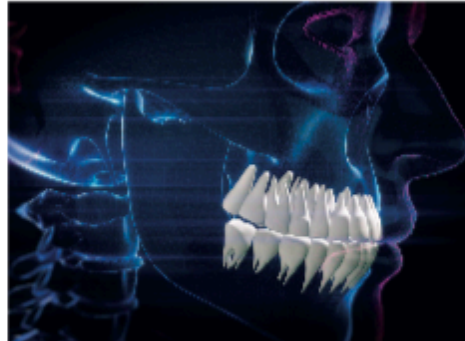


What has become clear to many within the profession is just how beneficial digital technology can be in strengthening patient-practitioner relationships.

Many practices have been taking advantage of it for years, but the nationwide lockdown earlier in the year provided others the opportunity to truly embrace digital technology in order to engage with patients beyond the dental practice.

Besides serving as an effective communication tool, digital technology can also be used to streamline the restorative workflow and add greater value to the patient journey.

Intraoral scanners and CAD/CAM systems can be used to demonstrate the value of treatment in practice



From consultation to treatment

Intraoral scanners and CAD/CAM systems can be used to demonstrate the value of treatment in practice. My choice of intraoral scanner is the Itero Element 2, which enables me to perform an initial assessment of a patient, using the intraoral scans as a digital study model. My team and I can then co-diagnose the patient together via a chairside monitor.

Another benefit of the Itero Element 2 is that it provides the facility for me to monitor complications such as tooth wear and gum recession through the

timelapse feature, enabling me to treat these conditions at the appropriate time.

I can also use this intraoral technology to take digital impressions that facilitate treatment with dental crowns, bridges, implants, bleaching trays and/or orthodontic appliances – including Invisalign clear aligners, lingual retainers, and Essix retainers.

Furthermore, the Itero Element 2 affords the benefits of a 'smile simulation', providing instant before and after images of a patient's smile to give them an idea of what could be achieved, which can ultimately increase treatment acceptance rates. The Itero Element 5D offers additional features – including near-infrared imaging for caries detection – and can be linked directly to chairside milling systems to enable single-visit dentistry.

The future

A complete digital workflow, from initial consultation to treatment delivery, can ultimately enhance the patient journey and improve the quality of care. As digital technology advances, the treatment possibilities will undoubtedly expand – the popularity of 3D printing is already gaining momentum, particularly as it becomes more affordable and, therefore, more accessible.

By leveraging innovative solutions today, we can continue meeting the demands of patients tomorrow and far into the future. **D**



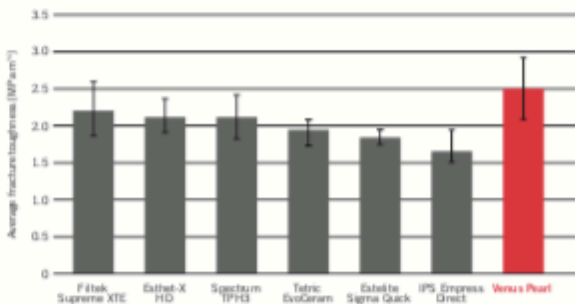
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