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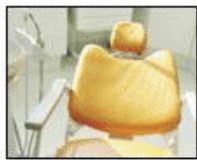


Maintaining Your 3-D Momentum with Cone-Beam Imaging

Featured Article - By [Edward Y. Lin, DDS, MS](#)

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Picasso Lite Diode Laser from AMD LASERS, LLC

Those who have already invested in Cone Beam technology have marveled over the 3-D images and additional information that contributes to better diagnostics. The 3-D view offers us a clear view of teeth, bones, and nerve canals, and gives us the ability to rotate, magnify, and slice images, all leading to precise treatment planning for more successful outcomes. That's a pretty picture, but our cone beam scanners offer so much more in conjunction with new software applications for different specialties.



A must-have for implantology

For doctors focused on implants, 3-D is a necessity for active therapeutic care. When 3-D scanning technology is used in conjunction with treatment planning systems such as the Nobel Guide™, Keystone EasyGuide™, SimPlant® and others, clinicians have access to the clear and precise scans needed for implant guided surgery options. These sophisticated applications allow for the fabrication of surgical guides based on the 3-D scans using CAD software to achieve a highly predictable result for implant placement.

Enhanced ortho treatment planning

As orthodontists, 3-D technology allows us to choose innovative and in many cases, quicker, treatment options. The 3-D scan gives us a view of how the teeth fit together from any angle. My office also uses our scans in conjunction with [SureSmile](#). The [i-CAT®](#) is the only Cone Beam system to be certified by OraMetrix for seamless integration with SureSmile® technology. Armed with the data from our i-CAT scan, in conjunction with the SureSmile system, virtual tooth movement and CAD technology provide us with prescriptive planning capabilities and robotic arch-wire customization. Fabricating a SureSmile wire off of our i-CAT scan increases our productivity and predictability. Since we captured the 8.9-second scan for diagnostics, we can use it for SureSmile and save an average of 30 minutes per patient, the time it takes to scan with a 3-D camera. Plus, we can use the data of the roots, not just the crowns of the teeth, to gain better setups.

Do your homework

While all of this new technology can have a wonderful impact, it also comes with the added responsibility to learn to use it safely and efficiently. Seminars and training sessions can help you to

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implement the equipment into your practice, to manipulate the data and to choose and integrate the third party software that will benefit your office the most. Experts at venues such as the i-CAT Training Institute, the International Congress on 3-D Dental Imaging, dental symposiums, or users meetings will continue to enlighten you and your staff and generate new ideas for improving and protecting your business. Take every opportunity to learn how to improve patient care and maximize your investment.

Our society is transitioning into the 3-D world. As clinicians, we must take advantage of all of the options and learn about the new applications. Through word-of-mouth and referrals, patients in our community quickly find out that we are technology leaders. They respect and appreciate the fact that we invest in the technologies and training that can benefit them or their families.

Check out the details about the [3rd International Congress on 3-D Dental Imaging](#) Sponsored by Imaging Sciences International and Gendex Dental Systems, the Congress is being held in Chicago this June.

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