Dear Reader,

Dentistry is on the move! Today’s patients expect to be treated with the latest technology and materials to maximise their dental experience. As clinicians, we owe it to our profession and to our patients to utilise the newest technologies according to best practices that will elevate our care without compromise. I have adopted this approach to dentistry by integrating chairside CAD/CAM dentistry (E4D Dentist System, D4D Technologies) and in-office CBCT (i-CAT, Imaging Sciences International) into my practice.

With the E4D system, I am able to control my indirect restorative dentistry, without having to eliminate the laboratory or the technician. I am able to more appropriately coordinate single tooth treatment chairside with IPS Empress CAD and IPS e.max CAD materials (Ivoclar Vivadent), as well as provide more comprehensive options to meet my patients’ needs. In today’s world, CAD/CAM dentistry has given us the ability to offer reliable, in-office, same-day and high quality indirect restorations to our patients. With the laser scanning capability of E4D, I can scan in the mouth, off an impression or off a model, providing total flexibility in patient treatment. In addition, the ease of use of the software and flow of production make it easy to delegate procedures to properly trained dental assistants for beautiful and functional results.

Generally, the same applies to the benefits of utilising my i-CAT. I can offer my patients the latest in cone-beam technology for diagnosis and treatment planning without having to go elsewhere or make additional appointments. The future combined use of technologies utilising intra-oral scans and CBCT data provides a unique view of a virtual patient prior to completing any treatment. This will provide the clinician, office team, dental laboratories and especially the patient with a unique view of the treatment plan, eliminate surprises in implant placement and harmonise anticipated results when all have the same ‘view’ of the entire case, from start to finish. The goal is to experience true restorative-driven implant therapy.

D4D Technologies and the Imaging Sciences group, with the groups from Gendex (CB500) and Instrumentarium (Scanora), are developing a software solution that combines digital data from intra-oral scans with 3-D surgical data (CBCT) to provide complete control and make restorative-driven implant therapy a reality. Through the dynamic collaboration of these dental technology leaders, future dentistry will use these technologies in harmony. For the general dentist, the collaborative efforts of leading digital scanning companies and cone-beam manufacturers will enable the expansion of same-day restorative care to same-day surgical placement of implants using cone-beam guidance and the immediate placement of an in-office and CAD/CAM restoration.

My patients are 3-D and I believe my treatment should be as well. Practising in this manner offers great advantages in treatment options and predictability. Dentistry is on the move, so our patients don’t have to! Get on board with the latest in modern dentistry—you, your team, your practice and your patients deserve it.

Yours faithfully,

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