Imagine a technology so advanced it could single-handedly change the way we view dentistry: a state-of-the-art, in-office piece of equipment with the ability to dramatically increase production, enhance patient relations, and increase the overall success of your practice. That’s E4D Dentist System™ (D4D Technologies) CAD/CAM technology.

In an effort to keep up with the latest advancements, our practice has been familiarizing itself with CAD/CAM technology since 2005. As with every technology, there was a learning curve, but I immersed myself in the technology — attending every class, watching online training videos, joining study clubs — and by January 2008, I was designing and creating four-plus restorations in a single day.

The E4D Dentist System allowed me the opportunity to expand my knowledge of CAD/CAM and is my prime choice for anterior cases. The intuitive Dental-Logic design software is phenomenal and easy to use, and the IPS e.max® CAD blocks (Ivoclar Vivadent, Amherst, N.Y.) together have totally changed CAD/CAM dentistry.

Many of the previous materials used with CAD/CAM required a minimum thickness of 2 mm to reduce the likelihood of ceramic fracture. Many clinical situations do not allow for such aggressive reduction, and furthermore, we were not comfortable removing that amount of natural tooth structure.

The introduction of IPS e.max allows for conservative preparation with a restorative material that is more than three times stronger than traditional porcelains. Veneers with a minimum thickness of 0.4 mm and a strength of 360 MPa can be fabricated from the inherently opalescent material, producing esthetic and strong yet minimally invasive anterior restorations.

The purpose of investing in CAD/CAM was to serve our patients faster and more efficiently with the ability to produce a superior quality restoration in one visit. When we decided to invest in the E4D Dentist System, I viewed it as an opportunity to strengthen our practice foundation and restructure our goals. Every member of the team was involved in determining the most effective way to utilize the new technology efficiently and productively. All aspects of the practice were considered, including scheduling and recall appointments, room set-up, insurance coding, billing, etc.
THE WORLD SPEAKS e.max.

AND SO DOES THE SCIENCE...

• UP TO 10 YEARS' OF CLINICAL EVIDENCE.
• 98.2% CROWN SURVIVAL RATE.††
• 40 MILLION RESTORATIONS.
• 1 PROVEN SYSTEM: ® e.max.

all ceramic all you need
It is imperative to practice success that everyone on the team be united regarding practice goals and directives, especially during a restructuring. It is a necessity today to utilize all team members to their maximum potential to increase efficiency and productivity and, in turn, practice revenue. Also, when team members feel vital to the practice they feel fulfilled, experience an increase in job satisfaction and are more motivated, resulting in higher employee retention rates and enhanced customer service.

What is unique about our practice is that it is family run. The oldest of five children, I began working for my father, Thomas Lakebrink, DDS, in 1999 straight out of high school (Fig. 1). What I lacked in dental education I made up for in drive. I immersed myself in continuing education courses, from marketing to business to dental anatomy. I’ve attended courses taught by the most renowned leaders in the profession and learned that there is no limit to success.

My two sisters also work with us. Michele has held the treatment coordinator/patient care position since 2005, and Lauren handles the marketing, new patient and events departments. In a family business, everyone is emotionally invested. More than half of the team that works at Lakebrink Dental has been employed for more than seven years. We’ve developed deep, trusting relationships with our patients as if they were extended members of our family.

Because we concentrated on selecting employees who share our values, morals, work ethic and caring attitude, patient care has become second nature. Not only are our employees happy to be here — we actually attract employees — but the family atmosphere is also inviting and comforting to our patients. They far prefer entering a warm and caring environment, where treatment is performed with a genuine concern for their well being than a purely clinical environment with indifferent or disgruntled practitioners.

The E4D Dentist System was a perfect addition to our family. Incorporating E4D into our practice provided us the opportunity to establish ourselves and become highly regarded and irreplaceable oral clinicians in the lives of our patients. Having cutting-edge technology at our fingertips distinguishes our practice from others and is empowering and fulfilling because of the advanced services it enables us to offer patients. With E4D technology and IPS e.max materials, the opportunities for growth and success are endless.

What stands out with the E4D Dentist System is that you are never alone. The D4D Technologies team is like extended family! The E4D Support on Site (S.O.S.), online remote support, provides instant access to hardware and software technicians and dental professionals to guide you every step of the way, making the E4D experience unlike any other. From set-up to milling, the S.O.S. teams work to facilitate a smooth transition, resulting in many effective and successful restorations.

Because the dentist’s goal is to treat each patient comprehensively while producing quality dentistry in a timely manner, a major advantage of E4D is the ability to train dental assistants to complete as much as...
Without a doubt, incorporating E4D into our practice has proven to be the most motivating, challenging and gratifying professional experience to date.

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