With E4D chairside CAD/CAM, ‘old dogs’ can learn new tricks

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In pursuing dental perfection for our patients, investing in the most innovative and proven technology is of the utmost importance. Unfortunately, when it comes to making that investment and adopting a new treatment method, fear can be a factor holding back many professionals.

My biggest fear regarding investment into chairside CAD/CAM was the cost of entry. However, the E4D Dentist System™ (D4D Technologies) chairside CAD/CAM system is technology with a very fair price tag considering the innovation, education and support provided, and the numerous ways it benefits our practice.

My commitment to maintaining a competitive edge by keeping up with the latest dental technology strengthened my resolve to invest in chairside CAD/CAM technology. I chose the E4D Dentist System rather than earlier generations of the technology when I learned that Lee Culp, CDT, was involved in the design and that Henry Schein was there to provide distribution support.

I’ve known and respected Culp for 16 years. When I spoke to him regarding the E4D Dentist System, he shared his insight in terms of what the product was capable of. Since then, one thing I’ve learned from using the system myself is that the advantages you read about E4D are not hype but fact, and I find that refreshing.

The education and support provided with E4D is exemplary. The initial training in Dallas was efficient, precise and comprehensive. A myriad of advanced courses are offered, including smile design.

D4D Technologies is unprecedented in terms of supporting their system by providing onsite setup; training and integration support; a remote design service; remote support from clinical, laboratory, software and hardware experts; and a local support team.

Another concern I had when investing in CAD/CAM technology was whether I would be able to provide the same high-quality, long-lasting restorations using IPS e.max® (Ivoclar Vivadent), which I’d
been getting from my lab before purchasing the E4D system. Not only have I been fabricating predictable and long-lasting posterior restorations (Figs. 1, 2), beginning at first with single posterior onlays, inlays and crowns using IPS e.max (Ivoclar Vivadent) and some using composite, but we’ve added quadrant dentistry (Figs. 3, 4). We’re also moving into anterior restorations (Figs. 5, 6).

For those of us who are set in our ways and were adults before computers and other advanced technologies were introduced, E4D may present a slight learning curve, depending on how technologically savvy the individual is. However, if I can create long-lasting, predictable and esthetic restorations with the E4D system, anyone can.

At the age of 61, I was accustomed to doing things a certain way. Since investing in the E4D Dentist System, I’ve taken the advanced classes offered by D4D, and I’ve recently completed the advanced smile course in order to take full advantage of the system’s capabilities.

I would share a few pearls of wisdom with those professionals considering adding E4D technology to their practices. First, learn to prepare the teeth for the CAD/CAM environment, because it may be a different process than you’ve been accustomed to.

Second, focus on tissue management because when taking any type of impressions, very clear and defined margins are important. Finally, find a dedicated, trusted assistant to train along with you. In my office, while I focus on preparing the patient’s teeth, I rely on the backup and support of my assistant Danielle Ford, who is trained to perform the design and milling.

This workflow decreases patient chair time, increases patient turnaround and, in turn, increases our return on investment. It is a win-win situation for everyone.

_Conclusion_

Not only does investing in the E4D Dentist System improve your practice economically, it also improves it perceptually for you, your patients and your staff.

My staff and I are proud to provide our patients with same-day crowns and the myriad benefits that accompany the E4D technology, and our patients are proud that their dental office offers such advanced capabilities. They’re impressed with the quick, easy and virtually painless procedures we perform, and your best public relations is a pleased customer!

All in all, I have been very pleased with the E4D Dentist System and D4D Technologies in general. Both the system and the company have performed remarkably.

I’m glad that I invested in E4D in spite of my initial fears. I wouldn’t change a thing, and the E4D technology has shifted my practice into the 21st century._

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