Benefits and realities of incorporating E4D chairside CAD/CAM

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Technology can make professional life easier, and procedures associated with it faster and better, but the idea of mastering technology brings fear into the hearts of many. That’s why when considering investing in a major piece of technology, the principal questions are:

- Is it a piece of equipment that can and will be incorporated into the office?
- Will this major investment sit and collect dust?
- What are the true benefits and the real consequences?

Those were my biggest fears and concerns when investing in the E4D Dentist System™ (D4D Technologies), but I can say with not the least bit of reservation that my fears were vanquished. In my practice, the E4D is utilized every day for crowns, onlays and composite restorations.

When I first considered investing in CAD/CAM technology, I checked with my colleagues regarding earlier generations of chairside systems but didn’t get the rave reviews I hoped for. I decided upon E4D when I realized Henry Schein, the company from which I purchase most of my equipment, backed it. They’re a company I trust and respect, which was a first-class recommendation for me.

What I hoped to accomplish with the E4D was fabricating same-day crowns for most single-unit cases. My expectations were achieved, and from the very start the E4D Dentist System was utilized in every possible case. Investing in the E4D Dentist System proved not to be a financial hardship, but rather a financial windfall.

The ability to produce same-day crowns makes it easy to pay for the E4D system by keeping most of our crown work in-house and reducing our monthly lab bill, which is now allocated toward our investment
in the E4D CAD/CAM technology. The fact that it also allows us to treat more patients on a daily basis contributes to our return on investment. Of course, as with anything, there is a learning curve. However, we started by performing single cases and after a short time, we’ve progressed to multiple-unit cases.

To make the most of your investment, training and education are of primary importance. I could not imagine investing in the E4D Dentist System and not taking full advantage of as much training and education as humanly possible to maximize its potential. The continuing education and myriad of advanced classes are exceptional.

A vital factor to the success and integration of the E4D Dentist System is educating and training at least one or two of your assistants. By performing all the scanning and digital wax-ups, trained assistants speed up the process by allowing dentists to be more productive in other ways.

With E4D, you’re not alone after the initial investment. D4D Technologies is with you every step of the way, which is a welcome convenience and a relief when investing in an advanced piece of technological equipment. The E4D support staff has been indispensable, and in the beginning, we utilized them fully.

They helped to get us up and running quickly and this allowed us to overcome our initial operational insecurities. They were especially instrumental during the period between the initial setup and our participation in the advanced courses.

D4D Technologies provides exceptional support via live, remote Support On Site (S.O.S.) with visual diagnostics, clinical, educational and technical support. They are available whenever you need them. They can talk you through a whole case, if necessary, or even take over a case via remote support and walk you through it.

For those considering E4D CAD/CAM technology, my words of wisdom are to make the most of it. Don’t be afraid to use it, and to use it every chance you can from the very start. With experience, the E4D Dentist System becomes faster and easier to use. At first it, may take time, but that will quickly change, especially if your assistants are trained as well.

With regard to procedure, I suggest using the composite blocks for large crown build-ups after endodontic therapy. For example, prepare the tooth, take the impression and have your assistant design and mill the crown.

By the time the endodontic procedure is completed, you have a beautiful composite restoration to seal. That’s why it is necessary to train your assistants. It decreases the length of the procedure and chairtime for the patient, which they appreciate, and it increases patient volume, which we appreciate.

The E4D Dentist System has been working great for us. If it has proven beneficial to my small, rural practice, imagine how advantageous it can be in a more urban environment.

My original fear that it would collect dust was unfounded. The E4D Dentist System delivers.

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