Icon treats white spot lesions and incipient (or early) dental caries

Icon, the caries infiltrant system introduced by DMG America in September 2009, was featured in 10 Fox News segments and on BetterTV, a daytime nationally syndicated lifestyle show, in December 2009.

“The Icon system was demonstrated and/or explained to viewers, potentially reaching more than 12 million households between the newscasts and the daytime networks,” says Tim Haberstumpf, DMG America director of marketing. Icon was also featured on “The Doctors,” a nationally syndicated daytime show, in December 2009, was featured in Fox News segments and on BET, September 2009, was featured in “The Doctors,” a nationally syndicated talk show, in October 2009.

“Icon represents a new category of dental products,” says Haberstumpf. “This is the first micro-invasive product that can be used in just one patient visit to arrest the progression of early carious lesions, remove white spot lesions and increase the life expectancy of treated teeth.”

PhotoMed G11 digital camera

The PhotoMed G11 digital camera is specifically designed to allow you take all of the standard clinical views with “frame and focus” simplicity. The built-in color monitor allows you to precisely frame your subject; focus and shoot. It’s that easy.

Protech Dental Studio

Protech Dental Studio is all about “making your vision a reality.” The studio has been committed to excellence for many years. The lab delivers unparalleled results with an understanding of the needs of the clinician and the demands of the patient.

Plak Smacker: new Splash toothbrush

Plak Smacker has announced the latest addition to its line of toothbrushes: the Splash Brush. The Splash toothbrush is available in four bright colors: orange, blue, pink and green. This toothbrush has a comfortable, contoured handle for easy grip while brushing. The soft bristles add to the comfort of the Splash Brush and provide gentle massage to the teeth and gums. Patients are sure to rave about this brush.

Plak Smacker has been focused on introducing new, innovative products to help patients feel good about a trip to the dental office.

Advancing the art of esthetics

Protech Dental Studio is the laboratory that delivers state-of-the-art results. Protech Dental Studio technicians attend classes and workshops all year round to help them keep up with the latest in technological advances in the industry. Some of the newer technology that the company has recently embraced includes I-Tero and zirconia. The company creates its own custom zirconia abutments on site.

When you and your patients are looking for the very best in artistic smile design, call on Protech Dental Studio. The lab that will turn your vision into a reality.

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For more information or to place an order, please call (800) 558-6884 or visit www.plaksmacker.com.

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Facing the facts: dental CBCT vs. medical CT scans

By Bruce Howerton, DDS, MS

Before a practitioner performs surgery, he/she should be equipped with up-to-date knowledge regarding the possible conditions located under soft tissue within the oral cavity. Three-dimensional data generated by cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) technology offers a “surgical view,” or slices, of the entire field of view from the front, side and under the patient.

Cone-beam scans assist with determining bone structure, tooth orientation, nerve canals and pathology that, in some cases, may preclude the necessity for a surgical procedure.

In the past few weeks, various media sources have published articles regarding high exposure of radiation from medical CT scans. Unfortunately, these have generated misconceptions about dental CBCT, or 3-D cone-beam computed tomography scans.

The dental CBCT imaging method allows dentists to obtain vital three-dimensional information without exposing patients to high levels of radiation that come from medical CT scans. An in-office imaging method is more convenient; it saves the patient the travel time to and from the hospital and for follow-up examinations after treatment.

Dentists and other medical professionals ascribe to the ALARA (as low as reasonably achievable) protocol concerning radiation levels.

This protocol guides practitioners to expose patients to the least amount of radiation possible while still gaining the most pertinent information for proper diagnosis.

For example, for dentists placing implants, having this information beforehand is imperative to determining anatomical variations that can affect the procedure’s success or failure.

The differences between dental and hospital scans derive, in part, from the method of capturing the information. The average medical CT scan of the oral and maxillofacial area can reach levels of 1,200–5,300 microsieverts, the measurement of radiation absorbed by the body’s tissue. These significant levels are attributed to the method of exposing tissues to radiation.

With the hospital scan, the anatomy is exposed in small fan-shaped or flat slices as the machine makes multiple revolutions around the patient’s head. To collect adequate information, there is overlapping of radiations.

In contrast, the dental scan captures all the anatomy in one single cone-shaped beam rotation, decreasing the exposure to the patient of up to 10 times less radiation.

For example, radiation exposure using the standard full field of view from an i-CAT® CBCT machine (Imaging Sciences International) is 36 microsieverts. These machines are also available in different fields of view, thereby reducing radiation exposure even more, depending upon the needs of the patient.

For other comparisons of exposure, consider that a typical 2-D full-mouth series runs 150 microsieverts while a 2-D digital panoramic image ranges between 4.7 and 14.9 microsieverts.

Radiologists who have developed this technology have achieved the goal of allowing dentists to receive the same information gained from medical CT without the additional radiation exposure.

Dentists who do not own their own CBCT machines can take advantage of this imaging method by referring patients to imaging centers to acquire this valuable information.

The knowledge obtained from capturing 3-D scans has the ability to influence the effectiveness and efficiency of dental treatment.

A dental CBCT scan offers the views and detail needed to perform the latest procedures, while avoiding the unnecessary higher levels of radiation emitted from hospital scans.

As the technology continues to evolve, the possibilities for improved dental care can only increase. Increased software compatibility with surgical guides and orthodontic applications has made CBCT scanners an imperative for some dental offices.

As an oral maxillofacial radiologist and an educator, I firmly believe that with knowledge comes responsibility to provide patients with the best dental care in the safest way possible — a dental CBCT accomplishes this goal without the additional risks involved with hospital scans.

Effective Dose Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Radiation dose (mGy)</th>
<th>2D</th>
<th>2D Digital Pan</th>
<th>Medical CT</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
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<td>7.76</td>
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<td>3.3</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>3.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>21.4</td>
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(Source: DANAHER)

Directa FenderMate

Placing a matrix band to attain a good contact point and avoiding interproximal overhang after preparation for Class II fillings can be a time consuming and laborious procedure. Directa’s new FenderMate® offers a unique, fast and easy solution by combining a separating plastic wedge and stainless-steel matrix in its innovative design.

Cervical overhang is easy to overlook when dealing with Class II restorations. A matrix that does not perfectly adapt to the cavity margin under the contact point may cause overhang, and a control examination with a probe or floss may not detect this.

Over a period of time occlusal pressure causes the fracturing of unbonded excess material, which creates a trap for food impaction and plaque retention causing caries and gingivitis.

Sectional matrix systems consisting of a matrix, wedge and ring may create a risk of leakage due to lighter pressure of the wedge against the matrix when a retention ring is applied to separate the teeth.

With Directa’s FenderMate the combined matrix and wedge are inserted as one piece, as easily as a wedge, and employs a special new technology in its curved design that contours and complements the curvature of the patient’s tooth.

After FenderMate is inserted it adapts around the tooth and holds its shape without the use of a retentive ring. FenderMate’s flexible wing separates the teeth and firmly seals the cervical margin. A good contact point is created by the unique pre-shaped indentation in the matrix. No burnishing whatsoever is necessary.

FenderMate is available in two wedge widths, regular and narrow, and for left or right application. They are color-coded for ease of identification. The new, innovative design accommodates most approximate spaces.

FenderMate aids fast and efficient restorations and is the fastest matrix to apply on the market.

The combined use of Directa’s new FenderMate and Fender-Wedge® sets a new standard with a tissue-friendly approach for the preparation and filling of Class II restorations.