Lightening the load

Dr David Bloom and Dr Jay Padayachy of Senova Dental Studios discuss the benefits of high-tech equipment

1. Digital radiographs and portable x-ray heads such as the Nomad mean that all the convenience of instant radiographs along with the resultant reduction in radiation dosage are available. Not only are patients impressed by this technology, the advantages for the practice include time savings and also cost savings from not having to process the radiographs manually. Storage is no longer an issue and radiographs cannot get lost or misplaced or mutilated. Many courses are also available to allow your team members to take the radiographs themselves. See Figs 1a and 1b.

Digital radiographs are an essential piece of equipment on many fronts for diagnosis, patient communication and labora-

tory communication. A picture speaks a thousand words and never is this truer than with dental photography. Seeing a picture of their teeth on a 17-inch monitor aids co-diagnosis. This can also be extended to include intra-oral cameras as they also greatly aid patient communication and co-diagnosis. Intra-oral cameras are very useful when preparing teeth, for example when removing an old amalgam filling to show any internal fracture lines that are present, so that this can be documented. See Fig. 2.

3. Air abrasion unit. There are many available and each have their pros and cons. However, as a treatment modality, this is consid-
erably under utilised and has many advantages ranging from minimal preparation to better bond strengths for adhesive dentistry. While some of these advantages can be achieved through a lower-tech, intra-oral sandblaster, these will not actually cut tooth tissue which air abrasion does. It can do this very conservatively and often without the need for local anaes-

thetic. With the advent of hydro abrasion, the mess often associ-
ated with this technology is also greatly reduced. See Fig. 3.

4. Patient-entertainment systems. Some pieces of equip-
ment can seem high-tech but can avoid the expensive price tag often associated with this type of equipment. One such example is patient DVD glasses. These can be con-

nected to a portable DVD player to allow patients to watch a film during their treatment. These systems can be very techni-
cal and involved, but they can also be as simple as a portable CD player with headphones. These little touches make all the difference to the patient experience. See Fig. 4.

5. Dental Lasers have come down in price considerably over the last six years resulting in soft tissue and diode lasers at affordable prices. They now cover a variety of procedures ranging from cosmetic

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Course Synopsis

• Simple and easy way to master digital photography
• How to take the perfect centric relation bite and why
• How to use photography to treatment plan
• How to apply the principles of occlusion for longevity of your restorations
• How to take the perfect Centric Relation bite

• Why and how to take a face bow
• How to predict and easily verify a proper joint position
• How to diagnose a healthy joint from a problem joint
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gingival re-contouring to treating periodontal pockets and adjunctive to endodontics therapy and exposure of implant fixtures. The modern ones are very portable and some are even cordless so that they can be used in multiple rooms. Hard-tissue lasers are also useful, but at this time are considerably more expensive. See Fig 5.

6. Velscope. An amazing piece of equipment for the early detection of oral cancer. While the cost of this screening can pay for the machine, patients are also very appreciative of having this reassurance and with the correct marketing, the costs of the machine can quickly be recouped via goodwill. See Dental Tribune Vol 2, Issue 26 and Fig 6.

7. Wand. This is a computerised local anaesthetic delivery system that allows slow and painless anaesthetics. It is a modern replacement for syringes which have barely changed in design since 1855. Pain from palatal infiltrations will be a thing of the past and a single point of infiltration can anaesthetise upper three to three. As the needle can be held with a pen grip, there is minimal risk of deflection of the needle when giving an inferior dental block and hence the chances of failure are vastly reduced.

8. Magnification. A real eye opener once you start using it, especially when used in conjunction with a battery light—see Fig 8. It’s best to start with relatively low power of 2.5 times loupes. This can go up to times 4.5 with higher powered loupes or even higher with microscopes. Ensure your loupes are professionally measured to fit yourself for visual acuity. The magna vu is a video microscope that can be used to record procedures for patient education. It can be used live to work off indirect vision from a flat screen TV or even to feed procedures to a lecture room. It also can act as a magnification device of up to x 25 optical and x 50 digital. See Figs 8a and 8b.

9. Power whitening lamp—such as ZOOM Advanced Power. While some older studies maintain that the light does little but provide marketing support for the bleaching procedure, newer studies dispute this and our experience is that power whitening certainly kick starts the procedure and gives patients the motivation to continue with home trays that they might otherwise be reluctant to wear.

10. Collardam. Although this is not high-tech in price, the crystal fibre technology is high tech and allows your patient to stay dry around the neck area even with the large amounts of water and spray are created associated with restorative dentistry and even ultrasonic scalers. If you think your patients do not get wet, just ask them. See Fig 10.

The products mentioned in this article are the ones used on a daily basis by the authors and other than Collardam, for which they are company directors, they receive no financial incentives for their use or promotion.
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Promotions at Henry Schein

Henry Schein, the UK’s leading supplier of products and services to the dental team are pleased to announce the restructure of their senior management team.

Simon Gambold, who has been part of the Henry Schein team for more than 14 years, and played an important role in the acquisition of Minerva Dental in 2008, now assumes the role of ‘Managing Director’. Simon will continue to work as part of the British Dental Trade Association, creating and develop key relationships throughout the dental industry and profession.

Patrick Allen, who joined the team in 1994 following a long career in the dental industry, has been promoted, to Vice President of the Henry Schein Minerva Full Service Business.

These changes at Corporate level are indicative of Henry Schein’s desire to continue to evolve and put in place a dynamic infrastructure that will support its growing business model and further support its customers in running efficient and profitable practices.

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