CADCAM at Christmas

Phil Horn from the Precision Coping Company reports on a recent course that illustrated how CADCAM in dentistry keeps evolving...

At the PCC we like to think we are at the cutting edge of technology. Hence why we attended a Nobel Procera ‘Training Camp’ so that we could learn how to get the most out of our new scanner.

The Nobel Procera scanner is an optical rather than point of contact scanner, but the really new thing that excited us was the new software that we hoped would allow PCC to:

- Create custom implant abutments on screen
- Create implant bars for overdentures
- Produce items using five axis milling.
- Save time by carrying out more design work on screen

And so it was that I found myself in Zurich on a Monday night just before Christmas – a great time of the year to be there! A number of other UK dental professionals also took the trip including staff from Sheffield University and army technicians. A light dusting of snow was on the ground as we arrived and it was literally freezing! We were ably looked after by Olga Chamoun and her colleagues at Nobel Biocare and made to feel very welcome.

The course took place over two days. The majority of the training was hands-on and this was one of the reasons that the course particularly appealed. We spent Tuesday morning using the new software on standard coping design, anatomical copings and wax-ups. After lunch we then moved on to bridge scans and design before finishing off day one with custom abutment scan and design on screen. Our hosts were then good enough to give us a walking tour of Zurich followed by dinner at La Terrasse, which if you are ever in Zurich, I can heartily recommend.

The Wednesday started early and we continued using the new software for abutment scanning and design. We then spent a large amount of time on overdenture bars – this was a particular area of interest for me and I have to say that the results we have achieved at PCC have been spectacularly good. The on screen design offers complete flexibility on more complex cases.

The day finished with a summary and overview of the training before we headed through the snow to the airport and back to our day jobs. The course was incredibly useful and I think that the new scanner and the course illustrates how CADCAM keeps evolving and moving forward. PCC obviously still produce our traditional ranges but we can now offer more products using the latest technology.

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