

DENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDE FOR THE DENTAL CLINICIAN

SELECT THE RIGHT CAMERA

Digital single-lens reflex (DSLR) cameras are perfect for dental photography. However, many practitioners also use their Smart phones and apps such as Shade wave mobile and Dental Shooting to get optimum and clear Intra oral images.

USE OCCLUSAL MIRRORS AND CHEEK RETRACTORS

Use Dental Occlusal (Buccal) Photographic Mirrors and cheek retractors which can be autoclavable and have round edges.

Mirrors get scratched incredibly so it is important to train your staff on how to use & sterilize the mirrors properly to increase the longevity of the product.

Begin with the retractors on the inside of the bottom lip, then gently rotate up. Don't be afraid to ask for patient participation. They are usually happy to hold the retractors in position as you snap away.

WARM THE OCCLUSAL MIRROR

The ideal size for an intra-oral occlusal mirror to capture full arches is 2 7/8" x 5 1/2". To keep fogging to a minimum, place the mirror in warm water for a minute or so, then dry and wrap the mirror in a clean paper towel just prior to insertion.

LUBE THE LIPS

Moistening the patient's lips with Vaseline will keep them comfortable and help the cheek retractors and intra-oral mirror slide in easier.

POSITION THE MIRROR

Position the mirror against the opposing arch and ask your patient to breathe through their nose, since mouth breathing will cause the mirror

to fog. Keep the tongue out of the shot and push the mirror to the back of the patient's mouth. Make sure you can see the facial and palatal surfaces of the centrals. And remember to give your patient breaks.

GET THE RIGHT ANGLE

The right angle is no angle. Try to keep your camera on a flat plane and point it directly at the patient's mouth. Holding the camera at an angle can distort your image and detract from the overall quality.

TO USE FLASH

A strobe flash is ideal for providing a bright light source. Close the windows and dim the lights if you're using a flash. A ring flash is a fabulous tool for taking intra-oral photographs. It provides virtually shadow-less lighting because the flash tube is wrapped around the camera lens.

KEEP IT STEADY

Avoid blurring by holding your camera as steady as possible. Use your dental chair or your other hand to help stabilize the camera.

STAY FOCUSED

Make sure the image is crisp and clear. Since premolars are in the middle of the depth of field, focus on them for the best shot. If you are taking a photo of a restoration, make sure it is NOT covered by saliva.

BE CONSISTENT

Before and after shots are key components of illustrating your work. When taking these photos, be sure they are consistent in terms of distance, angle, and lighting.

SIGN OFF

Make sure you have your patient's signed consent and model release form before you send or share images. It is a good idea to take a photo of the signed consent form after the clinical images are captured so you have a record of it.

APPS FOR DENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Some apps to use for your smart phone



SHADEWAVE MOBILE

Optimizing Camera Performance



DENTAL SHOOTING

Dentalshooting srls

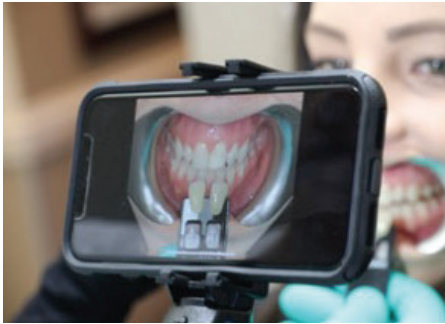
PROBLEMS WITH DENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY?

REDUCE THE REFLECTION

- Dimming the operatory lights
- Closing the blinds to reduce window light
- Raising the dental chair to that the patient is sitting upright.

CHOOSE THE CORRECT DISTANCE:

Generally speaking, the most optimal distance to take a picture of a patient's mouth is about 12 inches from their face, zoomed in so that their mouth takes up the entire phone screen. See an example below:



PRO TIP:

Taking several pictures from slightly different angles and distances can be very helpful. Also, be sure to include the shade reference information in one of your images.

BRIEF GUIDE

- Always use cheek retractors
- Move camera close to patient to avoid unwanted structures in the image
- Use dental photography mirrors and add operatory light on the mirror, as this provides more intraoral light, which helps when focussing
- Warm the mirror or blow air across it to prevent fogging
- Take as many images as you like; you can delete them later
- Set the camera and lens to Manual mode to control the aperture and shutter speed
- Keep same angle of view and magnification ratio from the right to left for consistency
- For portrait shots, consider use of light diffuser and reflector, as well as a non-distracting background
- For mirror image, flip when adding to a presentation or photo album as they will be reversed.

CHEEK RETRACTORS:



OCCUSAL & BUCCAL MIRRORS:



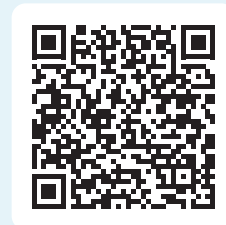
PHOTOGRAPHY REFERENCES



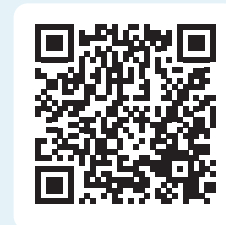
Smile Influencers



Spear Education



Decisions in
Dentistry



ZYRIS - Intra-Oral
Photographs



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