

How to SWIFTly Optimize Your Practice

BY RON KAMINER, DDS



scan-x swift

“Air Techniques has recently introduced ScanX Swift. Swift is a unique, small digital imaging device that fits on the countertop in the operator. Once connected to a computer, one can place the phosphor sensor into the ScanX Swift, and in a matter of nine seconds the image is displayed onto the screen.”

attractive to many practitioners. Endodontists and dentists placing implants especially desire the instantaneous images as to not break their continuity of treatment. The reduced radiation as compared to conventional X-rays is something in which many of our patients are aware. Hard sensors also pose some disadvantages that must also be discussed. They are costly. In order to outfit a large practice consisting of five plus operatories and multiple hygienists, one must purchase three or four hard sensors in a variety of sizes. These hard sensors also require

maintenance contracts as they are fragile and can break. When factoring in the maintenance contracts and the purchase of a variety of hard sensors in different sizes, this option while very effective, is a very costly one, with little tangible true return of investment for most dentists.

No matter what many companies have tried, making a hard sensor that is truly comfortable in the mouth still represents a challenge. We often forget that a radiograph is, for most, an invasion of personal space. Add to that the discomfort of a hard sensor, regardless of round-

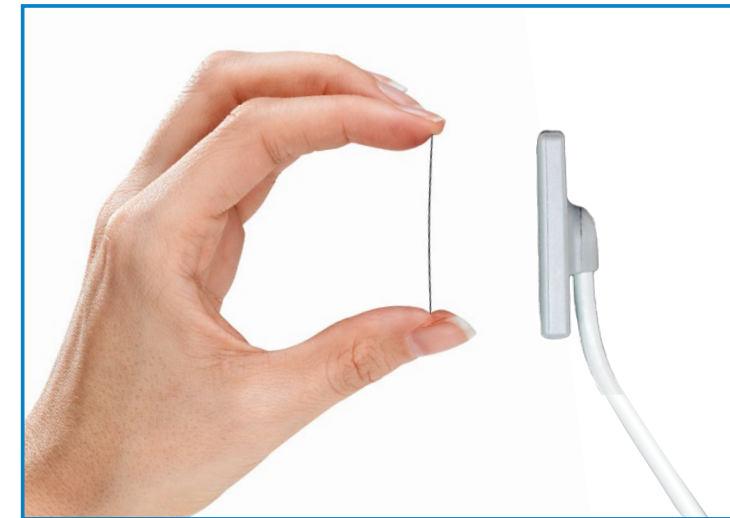
ed corners or smaller sizes, and many patients are unhappy taking X-rays with hard sensors despite the decrease dosage of radiation. Also, by adding the image pickup components and plastic housing results in hard sensors having up to 28% smaller image area (Clinicians Report, 2011). Along with being harder to place, the smaller image area may result in missing important information on the radiograph (root tip, bone structure, etc.).

Flexible, cordless phosphor sensors, while having a few disadvantages, pose some major advantages as compared to hard sensors. Phosphor sensors are similar in size and comfort to traditional radiographs. They can be used the same way in a Rinn or XCP type system as traditional X-rays as well. They are flexible, won't break or get damaged when dropped on the floor and still require the same lower radiation as hard sensors yet are far less costly, making them ideal for busy multi-doctor and multi-hygiene practices. They do scratch however after time and need to be thrown out, but the cost for a new phosphor sensor is only a few dollars.

The biggest disadvantage of these systems is that the phosphor sensor has to go into a digital scanner. Hard, wired sensors have the image pickup built in, which adds to their bulk; phosphor sensors remove these components and use an extra-oral scanner, enabling them to be small and thin. It adds time to remove the sensor from the mouth and place it in the scanner, adding from seconds for just a couple of images to a few minutes for a full mouth series. However, since dentists almost never remain in the operator during X-rays, there is no loss of actual work time.

Both phosphor sensors and hard sensors bring the same huge advantage of digital storing of images. No more faded radiographs after a few years in the chart or lost

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X-rays. At the touch of a few key strokes, digital images can be retrieved and viewed whenever necessary. One must realize that proper storage capacity and a talented IT person are necessary for this to be a successful system in any Dental practice.

Air Techniques has made great strides in fixing many of the aforementioned issues with digital radiography. Their ScanX system uses thin phosphor sensors 30 times thinner than traditional hard sensors. These sensors or plates come in five sizes 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4, making it easy to get an X-ray regardless if the patient is a child or an adult or if the patient has limited opening or tori that may impede on a hard sensor. Bottom line: these sensors are comfortable for virtually everyone.

The new Air Techniques Swift goes even further and is an ideal complement to hard sensors or film users. Swift is a unique unit that fits on the countertop in the operator. Once connected to a computer, just take the radiograph normally, place the phosphor sensor into the Swift, and in just nine seconds the image is displayed on the screen. The quick nine seconds of digital developing does not disrupt treatment continuity, and for procedures such as Endodontics and implant Dentistry, ScanX Swift seems almost a necessity - especially with the larger image.

While some may consider ScanX Swift as a solution for a single operator, I look at it as a total office solution for someone who is using ScanX phosphor sensors. In a typical five operator Dental office, I would place a ScanX Swift in each doctor operator. By doing so, the doctor workflow is streamlined with no adverse effects on the hygiene workflow. Since the majority of X-rays in the doctor's treatment rooms are single, the ScanX Swift becomes essential in those bitewings or full mouth series, so the traditional ScanX device can be utilized there.

All in all, Air Techniques seems to have taken into consideration all the negatives that may come along with wired or wireless sensors and even the negatives with developing phosphor sensors (plates), and corrected them all with ScanX Swift. Swift will rapidly become THE total office solution for anyone who is using or who has interest in digital or phosphor sensor technology for their office.

Remember the definition of “Swift” is rapid or quickly. I would suggest any busy dental office with multiple treatment providers to SWIFTLY incorporate a ScanX Swift into their office. I can assure you from experience, you will not be disappointed. ■

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graduated from the New York State School of Dental Medicine at Buffalo and completed a two-year postgraduate residency in Advanced Dentistry at Northshore Hospital on Long Island. A noted author and lecturer, Dr. Kaminer also maintains a teaching appointment at Peninsula Hospital in Queens. He earned the mastership award from the World Clinical Laser Institute and has been featured in New York Newsday, The Orlando Sentinel, and MSN Money for his proficiency in laser dentistry. Dr. Kaminer is also “famous” in Hollywood. You’ll see his name in the credits of the Steve Martin movie Novocain. Dr. Kaminer brings to his practices a comprehensive level of care and knowledge of the most cutting edge dental technology. For many dental product manufacturers, he tests and reports on technology not yet available in the marketplace. He lives in Hewlett with his wife and three children.

