



Streamlining the Imaging Process

WITH ROBERT B. MARTIN, DMD



Dental Product Shopper recently spoke with Dr.

Robert B. Martin, a pediatric dentist in Palm Desert, CA, about his experience using the ScanX Digital Radiography System from Air Techniques. A longtime product evaluator for *DPS*, Dr. Martin switched to ScanX after trying another digital x-ray system that was problematic for his assistants and hygienists. Incorporating the ScanX system into his practice allowed Dr. Martin to "bring the practice into the 21st century."



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What was your first experience with digital radiography?



My first venture into digital x-rays was in the 1990s, when I purchased a system with rigid sensors. The children in my pediatric dental practice had difficulty tolerating the sensor for the bitewing x-rays, and the younger children could not handle them at all. In addition, the system never fully integrated with my practice management software, and I could only read the x-rays at one central computer that was not located near the patient.



When did you decide to purchase the ScanX?



In about 2008 or 2009, we purchased the ScanX system and dumped our x-ray processor and films for good. The staff quickly accepted the new system. The phosphor plates in their protective pouches were at least as comfortable, if not more comfortable, than standard x-ray film. Of course, there was a learning curve in the handling of the plates in the pouch, so as to not damage the phosphor surface, as well as the use of the software.



How did it impact patient outcomes and the overall practice?



As with any digital system, the patient education aspect was phenomenal. Changing the contrast and magnification of the image made it easier to diagnose pathology and, moreover, demonstrate to the patients things like caries, supernumerary teeth, etc.

As far as productivity, the time saved from having to develop film and the cost of the chemicals were instant savings. The x-rays were instantly accessed chairside for patient consultations. Of course, the word of mouth that we had a "modern" practice could help to attract new patients.

In short, going to ScanX brought my practice into the 21st century, increased productivity, and was unanimously accepted by both my staff and patients. I no longer had to deal with my x-ray processor and buying and disposing of environmentally harmful chemicals. Purchasing ScanX was one of the best investments that I ever made.



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