

DIGITAL DENTISTRY: ARE WE READY FOR FUTURE?

Change towards the digital era is an irreversible global trend. With technology developing at a fast pace, digital dentistry will only become more efficient and user-friendly, allowing dental professionals to work in even smarter ways than before.

The digital development in dentistry brings the need for an entirely new set of skills for dental professionals. In a time that the artistic aspect of the dental acumen remains, the tools are different – it is now a matter of digital handicraft skills to achieve the dental restoration. Consequently, dental education schools and programs have a responsibility to need to increase their focus on how to master digital equipment such as CAD/CAM technologies to educate students in clinical settings.

The dental industry is undergoing a shift in the procedure of carrying out the dental workflow. Now that the digital equipment such as scanners, computer software, and milling machines have entered the labs, the thin line of demarcation between laboratories and milling centres is starting to fade. Greater number of clinics are setting up in-house digital equipment to design and mill prosthetic restorations. This allows the dentists to provide dental restorations to patients directly, without any help from a lab or milling centre and will eventually increase competition and put higher demand on dental professionals to operate as one unit offering full-in-office services in the long run.

There will always be new challenges ahead, but considering the advantages of digital dentistry and using digital equipment such as intra-oral scanners, lab-scanners, CAD software, milling machines and 3D-printers, dental practitioners will be count on this investment in terms of a smoother and more flexible workflow, reduced cost and time, improved accuracy and a high level of clinical predictability.

The digital era is simply here to stay, you can jump on the bandwagon!

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