Digital radiography system takes clarity, ease to new level

Dentist reviewer is ‘blown away’ by Schick 33 intraoral digital sensor and image management system

By Dr. Neal Patel

I have a passion for technology, because it bridges the gap of communication between clinician and patient. This year, I decided to give myself something that would make my experience as a dentist more enjoyable — appropriately, on my 33rd birthday. I write this article to express my enthusiasm for that “gift” to myself, a product that has honestly blown me away: the Schick 33 intraoral digital sensor.

I had thought 2-D imaging had plateaued. Schick 33 by Sirona has completely changed my opinion; it’s a huge step forward in providing clarity and significant improvement in diagnostic imaging. The images provided by Schick 33 are unlike any 2-D images that I have seen.

As a general dentist, it is my responsibility to be the best diagnostician for every patient. Schick 33 opens the door for comprehensive dental care. It improves diagnostic acumen for general dentistry, endodontics, periodontics, and restorative dentistry.

Quality images

As a beta tester for Sirona, I realize the complexity in design and engineering that is overcome in product development.

Sirona spared no expense with R&D on the Schick 33, and it continues to make giant leaps in technology — the theoretical resolution limit of 33 line pairs per millimeter, updated imaging software with expanded capabilities for enhancement and customization — and it meshes seamlessly with existing Schick Elite platforms.

Ease of use

I particularly like — and so does my staff — the replaceable cable, which lets us quickly and easily change cables with a simple one-step procedure.

I also like Schick 33’s presets. Sirona calls it clinical-task-specific mapping. I can click on a preset and images automatically default to the setting I need — general dentistry, endodontics, periodontics or restorative dentistry. Immediately after the image is captured, I can instantly adjust the image’s sharpness by moving my cursor left or right over the graphical slider.

Versatility

We use all three sensor sizes (0, 1 and 2) in my practice. If we have a patient with special positioning needs, we also can take advantage of the different cable lengths (3, 6 and 9 feet) and switch them out quickly.

Schick 33 has opened my eyes to newfound pathology and restorative needs for all of my patients. My experience has been enlightening, and I treat all existing patients as new patients during their routine exam and cleaning. Perhaps most importantly, support and training are essential, and both Patterson Dental and Sirona rolled out the red carpet with support.

You owe it to yourself

If you want to be a progressive dentist, you owe it to yourself and your patients to look into Schick 33. In the daily grind of wanting to grow our practices through new patients, we often forget about our most valued customers — our current, active patients. I am finding that I am more confident in my interpretation of 2-D images from Schick 33, and this is directly affecting my patients’ acceptance of treatment needs. My staff is blown away by our ability to see consistently crisp and detailed digital images.

About the author

Dr. Neal Patel is a graduate of Ohio State University, where he served as the implant prosthodontic fellow from 2006-2007. Before opening his private practice in Powell, Ohio, Patel served as a consultant educating surgeons in 3-D imaging, computer-generated guided implant surgery and the art of stereolithography in dental applications. Patel is known for establishing many of the techniques and protocols for digital implantology and prosthetics. He speaks internationally on advanced digitization in dentistry, CBCT and its applications and practice management. He has published numerous clinical articles on advanced treatment techniques and procedures.

The Schick 33 system includes three sensor sizes (0, 1 and 2) and three cable lengths (3, 6 and 9 feet), enabling quick, easy change with a simple one-step procedure to address patients or cases that have special positioning needs.

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