Take your clear aligner therapies to the next level

Increase efficiency and improve patients’ experience with clear aligner therapy using novel solutions: EyeSpecial C-III digital dental camera and Attachment Removal Kit for Clear Aligners

By Shofu Dental

Doctors and their team members who strive to increase the effectiveness of clear aligner therapies in their practice seek products that can engage everyone in the process and improve the hands-on experience of a patient. Digital photography plays a key role in documenting treatments. With the right camera in their hands, team members can help increase the patient’s acceptance and practice’s profitability.

The EyeSpecial C-III camera from Shofu Dental captures stellar images for case documentation, diagnosis and treatment planning, patient communication and education, according to the company. Equipped with dental-specific, pre-programmed shooting modes, the EyeSpecial C-III enables clinicians and their team members to efficiently navigate through photography tasks without the need of extensive photography experience.

For instance, in order to achieve orthodontic photographs with Shofu’s camera, the operator will select a button corresponding to FACE MODE to capture extraoral images. In a similar fashion, an operator will choose STANDARD MODE to capture anterior and buccal intraoral photographs, and MIRROR MODE to accomplish the occlusal pictures.

For every step of an orthodontic photo series, the EyeSpecial C-III will automatically set the appropriate f-stop, aperture and focal length to deliver an ideal photograph, leaving the camera’s operator to simply select a suitable mode. Incorporating intuitive functions tailored specifically for dentistry, the EyeSpecial C-III is designed to handle clinical applications without requiring retrofitted add-ons.

When combined with a draw/edit function, which allows for making notes directly on images, this attribute is of an immense value for a thorough and effective treatment evaluation or a discussion about the progress or challenges associated with the modality, the company asserts.

Engineered to provide functionality, the ultralight (weighing ca. 1 lb) EyeSpecial C-III complies with infection control protocols. The heavy-duty camera’s body is water-, chemical- and scratch-resistant, and it can be swiftly disinfected with a sterilizing towelette, virtually eliminating the possibility of cross-contamination.

Safe removal of orthodontic attachments

In clear aligner therapy, proper tooth positioning and the desired tooth movement require composite resin attachments (buttons) in combination with the aligners. Easily removed at the end of a modality using appropriate finishing and polishing tools, attachment buttons do not cause permanent alterations to the tooth surface.

Designed to aid in the safe removal of orthodontic attachments created with direct composites, the Attachment Removal Kit for Clear Aligners from Shofu will help clinicians and their team members detach the composite buttons and restore the tooth to a highly esthetic look, without marring the surface.

The removal technique associated with Shofu’s kit supports minimally invasive dentistry. In a quick and simple procedure, the bulk of a composite can be removed with either One-Gloss PS or a Super-Snap violet disk. With Super-Snap green and red disks, the tooth surface can be efficiently prepared for the final polishing conducted with a DirectDia Polishing Paste and a Super-Snap SuperBuff disk.

Finishing and polishing after the attachment removal is vital to the clinical success of a clear aligner therapy. However, selecting the proper system can be challenging and, perhaps, overwhelming. According to Shofu, the Attachment Removal Kit for Clear Aligners delivers proven instruments and protocols to help team members safely remove orthodontic attachments and restore the teeth to a highly esthetic look in an efficient and predictable manner.
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Three steps for avoiding the dark overlords of ransomware

By Dr. Mark Sanchez, topsOrtho

Chances are good you know someone who’s been hit by ransomware. It starts when an innocent looking email is opened. Suddenly, you get a message that your data has been locked and to get it back you must pay a ransom.

The most recent ransomware in the news has a chillingly appropriate name: WannaCry. In fact, this specific ransomware — also known as WannaCrypt, WanaCrypt0r 2.0, Wanna Decryptor — has attacked various versions of Microsoft’s Windows operating system. Apple’s macOS was not affected. It’s one reason we built topsOrtho™ software for the macOS on Mac computers.

Apple’s macOS was not affected. It’s one reason we built topsOrtho™ software for the macOS on Mac computers. It was designed to be super secure, requiring two-factor authentication and using a multi-layered, robust security stack.

Here are three easy steps to help you avoid ransomware.

1. Ransomware hackers often use an email to trick you into installing the ransomware software. Train yourself never to click on a link or attachment in an email, even if the email is from a friend.

2. If you do get an unexpected email from a friend with a link or attachment, contact the friend to confirm the email is genuine. If you get an email from a business you work with, rather than clicking on the link, open your browser and go on the business’ website by manually entering the website name. Then, navigate to the section mentioned in the email. This prevents your browser from opening a page made to look like the site of the business, while it’s really a site made to mimic the company’s website.

3. If you do end up mistakenly clicking a ransomware link or attachment in a rogue email, you’ll be asked to enter your admin password or password for the feigned company. Never enter any password after clicking any website link or attachment within an email. Your computer admin password should only be entered if you are knowingly installing legitimate software or when deliberately changing your computer’s configuration. If you are ever asked on-screen for an admin password and the request is a surprise, click “Cancel.”

The WannaCry installs itself this way via an email. Once installed on a Windows computer, it uses a “worm” to scan other Windows computers on your practice’s network. Exploiting a Windows vulnerability, WannaCry can then install itself on those other Windows computers without the need for a human entering an admin password. After WannaCry attacks your practice via email, it spreads to the rest of your network.

In addition to the above precautions, using Apple computers for running Apple’s robust macOS operating system will drastically reduce your exposure to ransomware. WannaCry did not affect any topsOrtho practices nor any Macs running macOS.

A major reason topsOrtho is designed and built as a 100 percent Real Mac app — not as a Windows app or browser app — is for the renown security of the Unix-based macOS. topsOrtho is practice-management software that’s fast, easy and reliable.

We hope this information makes your practice immune to ransomware. Nobody likes to be held hostage — ever!

Here in Washington, D.C.
To learn more about topsOrtho, stop by the booth.

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By Dentsply Sirona Staff

In March, Dentsply Sirona announced the signing of a definitive agreement to acquire OraMetrix, a leading industry provider of innovative 3-D technology solutions improving the quality and efficiency of orthodontic care.

OraMetrix offers an advanced, CAD platform developed for dental professionals to deliver consistently predictable orthodontic outcomes. The acquisition, in combination with GAC’s bracket expertise and Dentsply Sirona’s digital technologies, will enable Dentsply Sirona to provide a comprehensive orthodontic offering that will include a full arch clear aligner solution.

Brad Clatt, group vice president, Dentsply Sirona Orthodontics, said: “Dentsply Sirona’s mission is to empower dental professionals to provide better, safer, faster dental care. OraMetrix has spent more than a decade committed to that same clinical approach. This acquisition brings an advanced digital diagnostic and treatment planning system that will provide clinicians the flexibility, speed, and control they need to treat their patients with multiple modalities on a single platform. We believe this platform positions us very well for the future as an end-to-end total orthodontic solution provider.”

Among its innovative products and services, OraMetrix offers a powerful, software platform that integrates multiple diagnostic media, including CBCT, cephalometric, panoramic, optical and facial data. Following the acquisition, Dentsply Sirona will be able to provide an end-to-end digital workflow with a comprehensive range of devices to enable dental professionals to match their patient’s growing demands for esthetics and speed of treatment.

OraMetrix will be a complementary part of Dentsply Sirona’s orthodontics business unit and strengthens Dentsply Sirona’s overall portfolio offering as The Dental Solutions Company™.

About OraMetrix

OraMetrix is a leading industry provider of innovative 3-D technology solutions improving the quality and efficiency of orthodontic care. Its proprietary technology, the SureSmile system, represents a significant leap forward in orthodontics, according to the company. SureSmile allows the use of precision digital tools throughout all phases of the orthodontic treatment process — diagnosis, treatment planning and monitoring, and arch-wire customization. For clinicians, SureSmile offers more precision, efficiency and control, while patients experience shorter treatment times, less overall discomfort and fewer office visits, the company asserts. The result is an orthodontic treatment system that the company claims will deliver unparalleled results for patients and doctors alike.

Here in Washington, D.C.

Learn more about the SureSmile aligner system and how it can help your practice at the Dentsply Sirona booth, No. 901.

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The SureSmile® aligner system is powered by a robust, clinically driven digital treatment plan system. It ensures the clinician is in control of treatment, and is designed to enable optimal patient customization. Using the advanced capabilities of the software and clinical expertise of the SureSmile TechnoCenter®, each aligner is custom designed to the clinicians treatment plan, and anatomically designed to the patient’s facial photo for ideal smile design. Choose either our complete or select system for aligners your way.
Discover the difference for yourself at AAO Booth 901
Digital technology is transforming the dental experience for both patient and practitioner

By Myofunctional Research Co. Staff

Technological advancements are perpetual catalysts for change that continue to transform the way we operate on a daily basis. For progressive practitioners, the constant wave of new technology provides an auspicious opportunity to increase prosperity and experience substantial benefits in other areas.

For decades, dental practitioners have been pigeonholed to tediously repetitious practices, such as the monotonous treatment of caries and removal of plaque buildup. Despite this, the prevalence of malocclusion in modern children is approaching 100 percent, and this growing incidence is allowing dentists to widen their scope of practice with the prospect of providing biological-based orthodontic treatment for children.

Additionally, the recognition of sleep-related breathing disorders in dental patients is increasing, with recent research finding a relationship between the prevalence of malocclusion and dysfunctional breathing.1

With this in mind, practitioners looking to diversify their pediatric treatment options in the increasingly competitive market that is modern dentistry should consider the benefits modern technology can offer.

The implementation of eLearning tools in American classrooms has produced a generation of students that feels comfortable using screen-based technology for self-directed learning and appreciates the low-pressure environment it offers.

Senior Myobrace® Educator Jessica Maidman is an advocate for patient education through the use of digital learning tools and considers the patient’s first encounter with The Myobrace System an important stepping stone for ongoing education and compliance.

“As an educator, I use our Myobrace apps to deliver information to my patient in a child-friendly manner. It helps them understand the causes of their developmental issues, as well as the need for early intervention and corrective treatment,” Maidman said. “Over the years I have noticed children respond much better to learning from new and interesting technologies, rather than an authoritative figure such as a dentist. The results are much more consistent because the information is being delivered the same way each and every time.”

Myofunctional Research Co. (MRC) provides eLearning software in all major digital platforms, allowing implementation for almost any practice. Taking advantage of modern technology allows any practice to transform into a tech-savvy environment that has an edge over competitors.

MRC regularly hosts seminars in the United States that provide practitioners with hands-on experience in learning new myofunctional techniques for the treatment of malocclusion, airway dysfunction and TMJ disorders, as well as the implementation of eLearning tools in almost any practice.

Visit myoresearch.com to find a seminar near you or learn more about the Myobrace® Member and Certified Provider programs.

Reference

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*According to “Dosimetry of Orthodontic Diagnostic FOVs Using Low Dose CBCT Protocols” by JB Ludlow and J Koivisto.
HealthyStart is the Ultimate Phase 1 Plus treatment

System combines open airway orthodontics with treatment of habits, malocclusions, improper growth and development and narrow arches

By Ortho-Tain Staff

Most orthodontists agree that two-phase orthodontics is essential to eliminate oral habits, establish and maintain the airway, correct malocclusion and reduce the likelihood of orthognathic surgery, surgical exposures and premolar extractions. With early treatment, almost all malocclusion cases can be corrected, including overbite, overjet, gummy smile, cross-bite, open bite, crowding, spacing and pseudo Class III.

The connection between sleep disordered breathing (SDB) and orthodontics is well established, but most doctors have not been formally educated on the subject. SDB and airway health are closely related to a child’s overall systemic health. SDB patients not only face more allergies and growth and development challenges, but SDB can also contribute to attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children.

Early diagnosing and treatment planning for SDB can minimize both outward symptoms and potential long-term systemic and oral-health complications. The U.S.-based HealthyStart® by Ortho-Tain® appliance system has treated 4 million smiles with a series of removable, nighttime appliances that gently expand the arches, eliminate habits, open the airway, align the teeth and correct malocclusion in patients as young as age 2. The inherent, eruptive forces of a child’s own teeth can be utilized for arch expansion and dental alignment, eliminating the discomfort and risks associated with traditional braces. Early treatment also allows for greater stability for crowding and rotational corrections, reducing the necessity for lifelong or long-term orthodontic retention.

Stop by the HealthyStart/Ortho-Tain booth, No. 311, to learn more about the Ultimate Phase 1 Plus™ and incorporate the Class III appliance and the Max A™ for advancement of both arches during treatment.

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Planmeca launches ULD certification program to promote patient dialogue on imaging radiation levels

By Planmeca USA Staff

In March, during the Hinman Dental Meeting in Atlanta, Planmeca USA introduced a unique certification program designed to encourage dialogue between patients and their dental practitioners on imaging radiation levels.

The Helsinki, Finland-based dental technology company, with North American headquarters in Roselle, Ill., manufactures and sells imaging equipment, such as the Planmeca ProMax® 3D family of units.

This CBCT system has a unique ultra-low-dose (ULD) feature that delivers a lower dose of radiation while achieving imaging quality that allows orthodontists to provide an optimal diagnosis. “A Planmeca ProMax 3D system using ULD can drastically reduce patient radiation by up to 77 percent — without a statistical reduction in image quality,” said Brett Hines, president of Planmeca USA.

Hines cited a study published by Dr. J.B. Ludlow and D. Koivisto that demonstrates radiation doses used in dental imaging can be reduced without loss of diagnostic quality. The company is not aware of any other dental imaging manufacturer, with an independent study, that can claim the same.

Because of attention in the lay press about this issue, it’s more likely that dental patients, too, may have questions and concerns. To help encourage these conversations about imaging safety, Planmeca USA developed a complimentary ULD certification program exclusively for Planmeca ProMax 3D ULD-capable systems.

ULD certification program features:
- Planmeca ULD certified office display materials to inform patients that you are using advanced safety/quality care X-ray equipment.
- Access to downloadable digital materials for use on your website and social media outlets to educate and market your practice as Planmeca ULD certified.
- Ability to become part of a searchable database of Planmeca ULD certified dentists, for prospective patients who seek low-radiation imaging practices in their area.
- A complimentary program available to all practices using Planmeca ProMax 3D Ultra Low Dose enabled systems.

The Planmeca ULD certification registration program is available at www.planmeca.com/na/uld/. To see the study, go to https://goo.gl/UPW5vL.
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Align Technology announced last month that it is extending the Invisalign product family with Invisalign First clear aligners, designed with features specifically for younger patients with early mixed dentition (with a mixture of primary/baby and permanent teeth).

Phase 1 treatment is early interceptive orthodontic treatment for young patients, traditionally done through arch expanders or partial metal braces, before all permanent teeth have erupted — typically from ages 6–10. Invisalign First clear aligners are designed specifically to address a broad range of younger patients’ malocclusions, including shorter clinical crowns, management of erupting dentition and predictable dental arch expansion.

"Early interceptive orthodontic treatment of children aims to prevent more severe problems or alignment issues that could get worse as they grow, while at the same time providing a foundation for permanent teeth to begin to erupt," said Dr. Mitra Derakhshan, Align Technology vice president of global clinical.

"Younger patients have smaller teeth with shorter crowns and anatomical differences that require specific features for Phase 1 treatment. Invisalign First is the first clear aligner product designed with software-driven features specifically for younger patients."

Invisalign First clear aligners expand on key Invisalign innovations and have been specifically designed for growing patients with early mixed dentition with new and unique features and functionality, including:

- The ability to use clear aligners to treat a broad range of malocclusions for Phase 1 early interceptive orthodontic treatment;
- SmartForce® features such as optimized attachments that have been designed for younger patients with shorter tooth crowns, allowing for improved predictability of tooth movements needed for developing the arch form;
- The application of SmartStage® technology, which maximizes treatment efficiency by producing the contacts and forces that support the tooth movement needed for arch form development specific to Phase 1 staging patterns;
- SmartTrack® aligner material, designed to fit comfortably while applying gentle, constant force to the teeth; and,
- Improved and expanded Eruption Compensation features that make it possible to treat erupting or changing dentition.

"Invisalign First clear aligners enable me to treat my younger patients in a way that is more comfortable for them and more convenient for their parents than traditional methods," said Dr. Tarek El-Bialy, an orthodontist practicing in Alberta, Canada, who has used Invisalign First to treat nearly 20 Phase 1 patients as part of the Invisalign First pilot.

"With no food restrictions, no change in brushing or cleaning, and less chance of emergency visits, Invisalign First treatment is a less disruptive way to treat my Phase 1 patients. We’ve never had a clear aligner alternative to traditional orthodontic appliances on these little patients — but now we do."

Invisalign First clear aligners have been used to treat more than 600 patients to date and will be commercially available to Invisalign-trained doctors in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the EMEA region beginning July 1.
Thank You to our valued customers for helping us reach almost $2 Million in contributions!

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Please visit: www.hscaresfoundation.org to make a donation or learn more about our programs.
Henry Schein has donated $265,000 in health-care products to nine dental schools in support of their oral health outreach missions to underserved communities in the United States and around the world. The donations are being made as part of the Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Program, an initiative of Henry Schein Cares, the company’s global corporate social responsibility program.

Under the Global Student Outreach Program, Henry Schein provides teams composed of dental students and faculty from each school with a donation of oral health supplies. The teams use these products during missions to provide oral health-care education, emergency dental services, screenings, prevention, sealant application and restorative treatment to children and adults living in underserved communities.

During 2018, Henry Schein is partnering with the New York University College of Dentistry, Nova Southeastern University’s College of Dental Medicine, Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, Temple University — Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry, Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry — University of the Pacific, University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine, Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry and University of Florida, College of Dentistry.

In addition to providing treatment, the Global Student Outreach Program teams assess the oral health needs of each targeted community and work to implement a sustainable oral health system, including the identification and training of local members of the community who can sustain oral health education and care on an ongoing basis.

“For many people living in underserved communities, the Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Program is their only access point for quality oral health care, so it is crucial that we provide the outreach teams from our university partners with these essential health-care products,” said Stanley M. Bergman, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Henry Schein.

“We are pleased to support the next generation of practitioners as they gain valuable experience, provide quality treatment and gain a greater understanding of the impact that their generosity can have on the oral health and, by extension, overall health of people in need.”

About Henry Schein Cares
Henry Schein Cares stands on four pillars: Engaging Team Schein Members to reach their potential, ensuring accountability by extending ethical business practices to all levels within Henry Schein, promoting environmental sustainability and expanding access to health care for underserved and at-risk communities around the world. Health-care activities supported by Henry Schein Cares focus on three main areas: Advancing wellness, building capacity in the delivery of health-care services and assisting in emergency preparedness and relief. To read more about how Henry Schein Cares is making a difference, visit www.helpinghealthhappen.org.