



MODERN DENTISTRY *in the* NEWS

Texas Dentists Providing Advanced Care Technologies To Patients

Advanced technology solutions being introduced by DSO-supported Texas dentists enhance the patient experience and improve clinical care efficiency.

DIGITAL X-RAYS

Digital radiography is a form of x-ray imaging where sensors are used instead of traditional photographic film. Digital x-rays reduce radiation exposure to patients by up to 90 percent compared to traditional dental x-rays, significantly decreasing the risk of cancer. Digital x-rays also allow dentists to easily and quickly share patient information, are less costly than traditional systems, and are more environmentally friendly.

Digital x-ray systems are the most popular advanced technology offered by dentists. In a recent patient satisfaction survey, the top benefit voiced by patients was the value of the digital x-ray and the greatly reduced exposure to radiation.*

CAD/CAM TECHNOLOGIES

Computer-Aided Design and Computer-Aided Manufacturing (CAD/CAM) produce diverse types of dental restorations, including crowns, veneers, bridges and dental implants. CAD/CAM technologies make it possible for dentists to place restorations the same day, as opposed to conventional techniques that require fitting the patient with a temporary restoration while an off-site laboratory produces the permanent restoration. The

CAD/CAM same-day technology allows patients to return to work, save money and avoid multiple visits to the dentist's office.

ELECTRONIC DENTAL RECORDS

Like other areas of healthcare, electronic record-keeping systems are improving communication in the dental care space, allowing dentists to consult more quickly and in greater detail. Paperless records allow dentists to communicate electronically with other healthcare professionals such as physicians, radiologists, pharmacists, psychologists, and nutritionists to deliver the best possible dental care.



BENEFITS OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

- **Better care**
Electronic health records allow dental professionals to share patient information in a more comprehensive, accurate and efficient way.
- **Higher patient satisfaction**
Advanced dental care technologies and the efficiencies they create make for a more enjoyable patient experience, leading to a higher rate of patient retention.
- **Reduced laboratory and supply costs**
Technologies like digital x-rays, paperless health record systems and same-day dental restorations reduce costs associated with traditional x-ray film, paper, laboratory and manufacturing services. DSO-supported dentists with access to computer-assisted technologies have seen drops in average total combined laboratory and supply costs.*

*Tech Profile, Inside Dentistry, July 2012