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Dental Photography: An Overview

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Editorial

With the evolution of modern technologies, digital photography has made a revolution in the field of photography while replacing analogic systems. This has allowed dentists to integrate macrophotography into their daily practice for diagnostic, for documentation as well as to facilitate communication (between practitioners, with the patient and also with the laboratory), for scientific publications... In 1985, Wolfgang Bengel [1] have described the standards of dental photography. With the emergence of new technologies, these standards should be updated and follow the new trends in macrophotography. Each dentist or laboratory technician, who wants to introduce photography into his practice, should be aware of the general basics of dental photography, the appropriate equipment and different shooting techniques. These fundamentals are crucial in order to develop skills and to obtain successful photographs which are reproducible and similar as much as possible to the reality. In order to meet these goals, the dental photographer should be able to control light and scene illumination (environmental light and flashes) and this is irrespective of the material used. Because, the heart and the mind are the true lens of the camera. The photography used in dentistry is a photomacrography commonly known as macrophotography. Used first to photograph insects, the macrophotography has become a primordial tool in modern dentistry. It needs macrophotographic materials including macrolens and macroflashes (Ring and twin flashes) which are used in combination with a Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) Camera. The most appropriate macrolens are 100mm ones. This kind of macrolens allows the dental photographer to take photographs with a magnification with 1:1 or better [1]. Moreover, these macrolens facilitate close-up shooting which defined as photography applied as close to the object to be photographed. This type of shoots permits to obtain more details on the photograph such as enamel reliefs, gingival thickness, and underlying vascularization of the tissue.

According to each dental discipline, dental photographs may include extra-oral photographs (portrait photography and smile photography), intra-oral photographs and laboratory photographs. In addition to photographic setting skills (to control light) and the choice of the most suitable material and accessories, shooting techniques are very important to be controlled and understood in order to avoid mistakes in composition and further clinical analysis of dental photographs.

Since dental photography follows particular principles and rules, we may consider it as a scientific photography [2]. Furthermore, it could be kept in mind that an artistic aspect could be Adopted to this kind of photography especially in highly passionate dental photographers. Dental photography could become easy for the dental photographer if he documents well on his basic principles in order to develop his own skills and touches. Training with a colleague is recommended before starting to take pictures for patients.

References

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