VELscope photography

By Martin B. Goldstein, DMD

T hose of you who purchased LED Dental’s VELscope may have discovered that while it appears to be a very useful tool for assisting in early oral cancer detection, documentation of your findings requires a bit of photo wizardry. Fortunately, a number of photo equipment vendors have taken note of the VELscope and now provide several approaches to capturing the oral cavity through the lens of this diagnostic tool.

It’s worth noting that LED Dental now ships a set of Doctorseyes adapters with its new Vantage VELscope that allow for easy mating with today’s popular SLR cameras. If you’ve a previous model VELscope, this set can be had directly from Mr. Larry Blosser at (800) 200-5394 (www.jlblosser.com). This kit provides an assortment of adapters and a rudimentary list of camera setting recommendations. A certain amount of experimentation will allow you to dial in the settings that are right for your camera.

PhotoMed International offers a somewhat different approach. Their VELscope Photography Kit, which is ordered camera specific, includes not only the coupler, but a simple software application that allows the user to brighten the images for better viewing. (Please note: For an SLR to be appropriate for VELscope photography, it requires an ISO capability of 1600 or higher. Check your camera’s specs!) For more detail on the PhotoMed kit, please visit www.photomed.net and check under “accessories.”

For those who do not own an SLR camera and choose not to do so at this time, an alternative solution is Dental Learning Centers’ Dental-Foto VELscope system with a LoLite adapter currently based upon the Canon Power Shot A650. This camera complete system offers a convenient approach to VELscope photography with the added benefit of video capability. For more information on this system please visit www.dlcenters.com.

Should you already own a Canon Powershot, such as the A650 or a similar point and shoot camera, and wish to use it with your VELscope, a Doctorseyes close-up adapter and coupling ring kit is available from Larry Blosser at (800) 200-5394 (www.jlblosser.com).

I have tried all of the above implementations and have found that each has its merits. Above all, it has been possible to obtain diagnostic quality images with all the options listed. The user need only select the scenario that best describes his or her “camera ready” state as well as budget requirements.