Using DrQuickLook SD for an implant presentation

By Dr. Bob Clark, Founder, DrQuickLook

Having used DrQuickLook™ SD for some time now, I see how its range gets larger each and every day. By that I mean I find more and more uses for it. I can literally tell when I need to use it. I get to a quiet, thoughtful spot in the patient visit — thinking how I am going to tell the patient a bit of bad news perhaps and that is when it happens — grab the DrQuickLook SD and do a show and tell. I always feel “saved” after that happens because it helps me through those stressful moments.

This is the exact scenario that happens with cases that end up needing dental implants. Let me give you a perfect case and see if this rings a bell at all — I am sure it will.

An emergency patient appears in my schedule with the notation “loose crown” or “crown off.” You know just by those phrases that things could go badly for the patient. Sure, maybe it’s just a recementation after a caramel snack; but, if not, the news is usually bad. The patient walks in and hands the assistant a crown with the entirety of the tooth structure that once held it securely in place within the crown itself. Apparently the patient has not seen the site where the crown once resided because he or she says, “My crown just fell out for no reason and I just want to get it back in place.” The dental assistant, unwilling to drop the bad news on the patient, lets you know the patient is seated. So there it is: the perfect storm for trashin a perfectly good day.

Quick Draw to the rescue

Here’s how I untangle this mess with DrQuickLook SD. I’ll tell you right away that I have the SD Plus version with what we call Quick Draw and the Patient Education option. You’ll know why in a minute.

Before my shoes enter that operatory, my dental assistant shows the patient the crown with the tooth remnants inside. We’re not talking about just looking at it. I am referring to the assistant holding the crown in her hand and taking several images with DrQuickLook SD Plus at differing angles to show the patient exactly what the situation is. The patient holds the image while the assistant talks about the tooth. Next, the assistant takes several images of the remaining structure of the tooth and reviews with the patient. My assistants love to use the Quick Draw feature or the SD Plus model. They can circle any areas that are particularly bad so there is no doubt in the patient’s mind about the situation.

Just the facts

Remember, I haven’t been in the room yet. My assistants are careful not to provide a final diagnosis or recommend treatment. They tell the patient that is my job. With patients fully informed, my job is to tell them what the diagnosis is — quite possibly an unrestorable tooth (they know this already) and recommend treatment options. All these images are saved to the SD card and eventually to the patients’ charts, so when a patient forgets how bad things looked — and you know that will happen — we can remind the patient clearly and objectively.

Patient education that sticks

Once patients hear the options, they want more specifics. Our optional Patient Education feature is invaluable. These images are an amazing tool to help the patient understand the problem at hand. It’s amazing to see how a patient will sit quietly and comprehend the situation and the recommended treatment options. The patient is much better informed and makes an educated decision.

Quick Draw can be used in many aspects of patient care. When I first brought this product to market I thought of implant cases, but through the years I have found many other uses. This application has been extremely helpful to me.

Photo/Provided by DrQuickLook

*See PRESENTATION, page A7
Dentatus, the first to introduce to dentistry narrow-body implants, welcomes you to join us at our Implant Center where participants will learn the distinctive technologies of the Anew, Atlas and Elypse implants. Our modern facility is equipped with all necessary instrumentation, models, implants and components used in the workshop.

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