Digital radiography that seems designed for pediatric practices

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Is there a technology you’ve come to rely on so much that you can’t imagine how you ever got along without it? For me, that technology is digital radiography with flexible wireless sensors.

When I first started private practice, we used film radiography exclusively. After a few years, we invested in a wired digital sensor system. It didn’t take long to realize that a large number of children, especially the young ones, couldn’t tolerate the hard sensors. So, after a few months, we went back to film. For the next several years, I never gave it much thought, other than when my staff would complain about having to clean the chemical processor.

About eight years ago, however, I discovered and invested in ScanX phosphor storage plates — now more commonly called flexible digital sensors — for our two offices. Manufactured by Air Techniques, the small, soft, flexible, wireless ScanX sensors are comfortable for any pediatric patient who can tolerate a film radiograph, unlike hard sensors.

Recently, Air Techniques introduced the ultra-compact ScanX Swift, which I ordered for a third pediatric office that we just opened. Here are 12 advantages I have come to appreciate about ScanX in general, and this new Swift model in particular:

1. Excellent image resolution. ScanX images enhance your case acceptance by helping you show the patient’s parent the extent and location of any problems.
2. Faster image processing. All ScanX models process images in literally seconds, a much more accurate time than when using film.
3. Larger image area. The image area with ScanX is up to 38 percent larger than with a wired sensor. That makes you much more likely to capture the complete coronal-to-opiscal length and miss a root apex or distal cusp, which means fewer retakes.
4. Easy image manipulation. Brightness and contrast can easily be manipulated, and areas of the film can be magnified for better viewing and diagnosis.
5. Same placement technique as film. ScanX digital sensors are placed in the patient’s mouth just as X-ray films are.
6. Easy software integration. ScanX software integrates easily with most imaging software.
7. Less radiation. With ScanX, the X-ray exposure can typically be 80-85 percent less than that required for film, which is something your patients’ parents will appreciate.
8. Quick image review and saving. When you view the scanned image, within seconds you can determine if you’ve captured the desired image. With a couple of keystrokes, you can then save the image into the patient’s electronic chart.
9. Digital storage and transmission. Electronic charts eliminate the need to store X-rays in bulky manila files and space-eating file cabinets and allow instantaneous transmission through email.
10. No chemicals. With ScanX you don’t have to deal with and pay for costly film packs and messy chemicals, or deal with the hassle of chemical disposal.
11. Affordability. ScanX sensors are a fraction of the price of hard sensors and can be reused hundreds of times. There’s also no need for costly insurance or annual maintenance.
12. Chairside compatibility. The compact size of the ScanX/Swift processor makes it perfect for chairside use or for placement just about anywhere in the office.

If I had to pick the most important advantage of using the ScanX Swift, it’s the fact that its sensors can be used with 100 percent of the children who can tolerate regular film X-rays. ScanX sensors are 30 times thinner than wired sensors, so they’ll fit even the smallest mouth. If you ask my staff, however, their favorite advantage of the ScanX Swift would probably be the fact that the images are scanned and available so quickly so if a retake is needed, they know it almost immediately.

If you explore digital radiography with flexible wireless sensors, I’m confident that you too will soon be wondering how you ever got along without it.
Designs for Vision is introducing a 3.5 expanded-field dental telescope that can be used all day, the Micro 3.5ef Scopes. The Micro 3.5ef Scopes uses a revolutionary optical design that reduces the size of the prismatic telescope by 50 percent and reduces the weight by 40 percent, while providing an expanded field, full-oral-cavity view at 3.5x magnification.

“We listened to dentists who wanted the field of view of an expanded-field 3.5x telescope, but were concerned about wearing them all day because of the size and weight,” said Designs for Vision President Richard Feinbloom. “Designs for Vision was started by my father, Dr. William Feinbloom, as an optical company in 1961 to design innovative head-borne optical devices, and the new Micro 3.5ef Scopes continues that tradition of optical innovation. We’re excited to be offering several new products this year, including, our NanoCamHD™ loup-mounted video camera, and two new frames: Nike® Retro and DVI Sport frames.”

Designs for Vision’s new NanoCamHD records digitally at 1080p high-definition resolution. The NanoCamHD records magnified HD images from the user’s perspective. The complete system includes 2.5x, 3.5x, and 4.5x lens systems to match the magnification dental professionals are already using — and providing a true user’s point of view.

As an added feature, still photographs can be taken from live video feed or during playback. Video or still images can be uploaded into a patient file, included in presentations or courses, or shared with a colleague or lab for collaborative consultations. The NanoCamHD complete system includes a color-corrected ULTRA Mini LED-DayLite® headlight. The combination headlight/NanoCamHD can be attached to your loupes or it can be worn on a lightweight headband.

The system also includes a foot pedal to enable hands-free operation of the NanoCamHD — matching true magnification levels of 2.5x, 3.5x or 4.5x to produce the most realistic simulation from the user’s perspective.

Designs also is introducing two new frame offerings this year: The DVI Sport and the Nike Retro. The Nike Retro frames are exclusive to Designs for Vision, which describes them as having “a classic look and excellent function.” The frames are available in tortoise shell, black and translucent gray.

The DVI Sport frames can be used for all magnifications and can incorporate eye-glass prescriptions — providing the protective wrap without any distortion. The NanoCamHD can be attached to the new Nike Retro or DVI Sport frames.

Be the first to “See the Visible Difference®” by contacting Designs for Vision at info@DesignsForVision.com or (800) 345-4009 for a demonstration in your office. You can visit Designs for Vision in exhibit halls at upcoming meetings: American Association of Endodontists (booth No. 724), American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (booth No. 813), American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (booth No. 813), and the Texas Meeting (booth No. 1169).