

PATRICK V. NICOSIA

====D.D.S., M.S., INC.====

Exclusively Periodontics & Dental Implants

There's a new machine in town, the i-CAT, manufactured by Imaging Sciences. The i-CAT is a cone beam CT dental-imaging system that can produce thorough and accurate 3-D views of all oral and maxillofacial structures, thus significantly enhancing diagnosis and treatment planning for dental implants.

The scans are performed in an open environment with the patient remaining seated and comfortable, allowing more accurate recording of anatomy due to natural orientation.

The procedure is far less costly than CAT scan imaging previously available, and uses a significantly lower radiation dose compared to medical CT's. Currently, Wilson Radiographic is charging \$100.00 per quadrant, about the same or less than the cost of a conventional panoramic radiograph. Because both the entire maxillia and mandible are recorded in each 20-second exposure, it is possible to obtain an additional quadrant or quadrants at a later date, if the clinician so desires.

The extremely low cost makes for practical use in even single fixture cases. This provides an enlarged comfort zone for both the patient and the surgeon. For example, the potential for perforation of a lateral wall during the osteotomy preparation, or violation of the neurovascular bundle space, in the mandible, is significantly reduced with this technology.

In multiple fixture cases, the ability to fabricate a surgical stint generated by the 3-D image is more than simply a bonus. For the surgeon to be able to definitively advance-plan the positioning of implants in concert with the restorative clinician, and avoid "treatment planning" during surgery, is a reality not formally available.

The next phase of advanced technology is already available. Laser guided drilling of the osteotomy, utilizing G.P.S.-type technology, is already being used in some special private settings and soon will be more widely available.

The future is here and it's awfully exciting, and the best part is the price is right.

Best Regards,

Patrick V. Nicosia, D.D.S., M.S.

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