NOTEWORTHY | Q&A | PRODUCT LAUNCHES

Planmeca's ProMax[®] Imaging Units

Cutting-edge engineering gives clinicians scanning freedom.

ecent engineering developments by Planmeca have made it possible for dentists to use the ProMax® imaging units, which are equipped with Selectively Compliant Articulated Robot Arm (SCARA) movement, a fully adjustable motorized collimator so that only the areas of interest are exposed, with a new highresolution sensor. This patented technology gives dentists the freedom to produce any movement pattern required, including standard pans, pan bitewings for adults and children, pan periapicals, and other pan and CBCT functions. SCARA movement makes accurate, reliable, and easy patient positioning possible.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Panoramic imaging combined with a high-resolution scanner provides the dental team with a host of new options. SCARA arm movement, along with the fully adjustable collimator and a newly developed high-resolution sensor, all ensure excellent bitewing x-rays with open contacts and a sharp image. Patients can easily sit or stand during the x-ray, leading to better acceptance. This freedom makes taking panoramic x-rays easier for the clinician and dental team, and is faster than traditional methods. Even patients with limited mobility are easily accommodated because of the SCARA arm's range of motion.

DIAGNOSTIC ADVANTAGES

Panoramic images provide more coverage for periodontal bone defects, periapical lesions, and pathological jaw lesions than bitewings, therefore extending the diagnostic benefit of pan bitewings as compared to intraoral bitewings.

PRACTICAL BENEFITS

Planmeca's ProMax is better for patients than traditional x-rays because these units expose patients to less radiation compared to traditional intraoral bitewings.

ProMax panoramic units also offer the benefit of a lessened need for infection control. With traditional bitewing x-rays, dental assistants have to wrap and unwrap the sensor after each patient, disinfect it and the sensor holder, disinfect the machine tube head, yolk and cone, disinfect any soiled countertop areas, as well as dispose of and change gloves. Using the panoramic machine requires no gloves and virtually no between-procedure cleaning or infection control. A dental team member must only replace the bite block sleeve, which is removed by the patient.

CONSTANT IMPROVEMENTS WITH EASY UPGRADES

Beyond their panoramic technology, Planmeca aspires to keep its technology current, and has made it extremely easy to upgrade any of their 2D ProMax units to a ProMax 3D. In addition to upgrading the hardware, new imaging programs can be added with software upgrades. Currently, Planmeca offers 30 different imaging programs and several imaging uses.

Planmeca's newly advanced image-capture technology eliminates redundant shadows and ghost images caused by objects outside of the image layer, resulting in the best possible quality in maxillofacial radiographs.



"I didn't anticipate how my patients would love the panoramic feature. Now traditional bitewings represent only 5% of all the images I take."

> —Paul L. Boger, DMD Warren, Pennsylvania

THE POWER OF PANORAMIC IMAGING

According to Planmeca sales representative Jim Hooper, dentists are more openminded to listening to the reasons in favor of gradually replacing their bitewing x-ray machines with panoramic imaging systems. "I sold 28 pan units this April because dentists now understand that pans are superior to traditional x-ray units, with several other advantages such as cost, comfort, and ease of use," Hooper says, adding, "In a tight economy, the cost savings of buying a new panoramic unit outweigh any perceived benefits of using traditional x-rays."

Tom Krah, DMD, a private practitioner from McMurray, Pennsylvania, relates that the new ProMax creates such impressive images that he's reduced his use of traditional bitewings. "The images are so consistent that the seven staffers who take images can all perform this task and the images are the same, regardless of who takes them," Dr. Krah says. He also stresses that his patients accept new technology and have not been cautious about embracing it. "Today's dental patients expect their dentist to be up on the latest technology. With the ProMax, they really love how hassle and pain free it is to have the image taken."

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