

Digital Dentistry: Prosthodontists Use It to Save Patients Time, Money, Visits

PROBLEM

As a prosthodontist, I get patient questions all the time asking about digital dentistry- what is it, how can it save patients time, visits and money, and if the quality matches up to traditional procedures of getting a new crown or cap, and can something done in under an hour compare to traditional production methods that take weeks?

SOLUTION

The answer to all those questions is –YES. A Prosthodontist is a specialized dentist with 3-4 years of advanced training in digital dentistry and oral health issues. The 3-4 extra years of training mean Prosthodontists know how to use advanced technology to treat oral health issues from restoring broken crowns to replacing broken or missing teeth with implants, crowns, veneers, or dentures.

TALKING POINTS

- Prosthodontists provide care at the specialty level, working closely with other health care providers and oral health specialists. They diagnose, plan, rehabilitate and maintain oral function, comfort, and esthetics for patients with clinical conditions associated with missing, deficient or broken teeth using dental implants, digital based technologies, crowns, bridges, partials and dentures.
- The American College of Prosthodontists (ACP) Position is that the ACP supports improved patient caring through advancements in digital dentistry. In fact, while it may seem new to patients, prosthodontists have been using digital dentistry technologies for more than a decade.
- The ACP advises that like with all advancements, it's not simply the technology that determines the quality, the fit, the materials—it's the prosthodontist (or dentist) who applies their advanced specialty training to design and control the outcome. Many potential advantages exist when leveraging digital technology including: more control by the individual prosthodontist (practitioner); improved patient experiences (e.g., chair-side crown fabrication); and the ability to use ceramic materials for crown fabrication that would otherwise not be available.
- Whether the digital technology is applied through chair-side scanning, design and milling equipment, or through the utilization of digital laboratory based technologies, the prosthodontist and trained practitioners are prepared to identify the best alternative for the patient's specific situation and needs.

Please visit GoToAPro.org [or insert practice web site] for more information on how Prosthodontic treatment can keep your smile healthy for a lifetime.