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Conventional Impression vs Optical Impression: The Battle has already Begun

Abstract

The most important step in prosthetic restoration is the impression, for centuries, the conventional impression has always been used in dentistry therefore the introduction of digital impression has revolutionized our prosthetic approach.

Keywords: Optical impression; Conventional impression; Camera; Prosthodontics

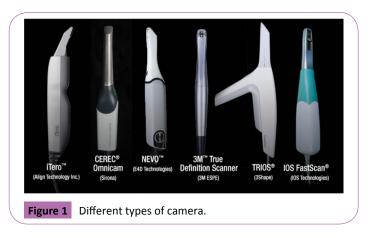
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Introduction

Digital impression was introduced in dentistry in the middle 1980, the father of optical impression Pr. Fronçois Duret, states the Digital Impression will overcome many imprecision in the prosthetic chain due to the materials and or human errors [1].

Since our main subject is the optical impression consequently we need cameras. As you can see there are many types! Such as: iTero; Omnicam by CEREC; NEVO; 3M true definition; TRIOS from 3 shape and finally IOS fast scan (Figure 1) [2].

The procedure consists of isolation of the prepared teeth, coating with di oxyde titane if we use système CEREC (Bluecam) or powder free scanning with color image data for the case if we use itero, that's Allow immediate evaluation of preparation and margins (Figure 2) [3].



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At least we need to have three impressions: prepared arch, antagonist arch, and the occlusion a virtual 3D model from those images. Contribute to a minimum need for occlusal adjustment in final restoration (Figure 3) [4,5].

How is Optical Impression More Efficient than Conventional Impression?

Well It was found that the digital impression procedure takes significantly less time (6 min 39 S) than the conventional impression which takes (12 min 13 S), it's more faster=less chair time which mean the increasement of 50% productivity [6,7].

We gain time by eliminating steps in the office such as: tray selection, there is no more Bubbles in the impression material or problems with separated impression material from the tray, disinfection, Moreover We obtain a virtual model, therefore it will delete all steps: Pour plaster, cut cast and dies, trimming, application of Die spacer, articulation besides each chemical step in the process accumulate errors in the treatment and also in the manufacturing cycle and shipping [8,9].

In the other hand, if we compare the two techniques! The optical impression requires less materials, steps and time comparing to

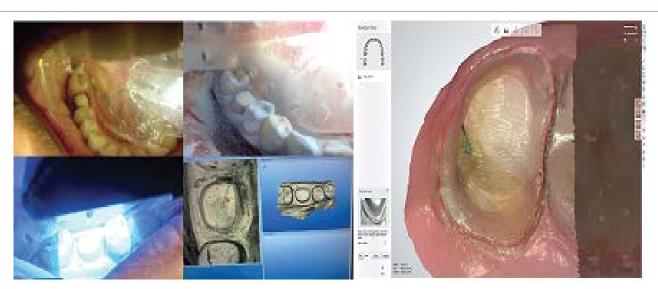


Figure 2 Optical impression with CEREC system «coating with di oxyde de titane » in the left image. In the right 3D color image by 3 shape with powder free.

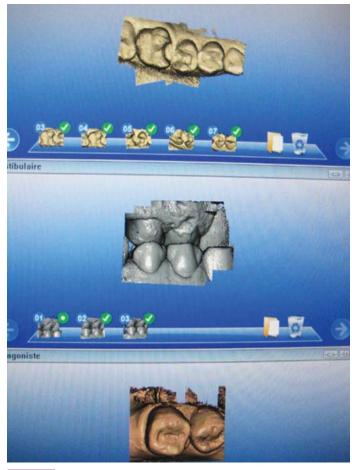


Figure 3 Three impressions; one of the prepared arch, second for the antagonist and the third in bite.

the physical impression.

- Imprecisions simultaneously more efficiency and accuracy
- As a result less time with more productivity in clinics and labs
- The digital impression can be stored electronically indefinitely, which saves space
- Tomorrow's dental laboratory is virtual
- For our patients comfort, No gag reflex any more with

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less chair time and they have tendencies for the digital impression technic rather than physical impression.

• That's will Gives a competitive advantage

Discussion

Of course, the optical impression has its limits such as high cost and the requirement of specific equipment about 4000 dollar. The *in vitro* studies show within their limitation that PVS is the most accurate impression material.

Conclusion

Digital and traditional impressions offer unique benefits and challenges. For patients with extensive bleeding, conventional impressions are best, because a digital scanner cannot detect what it cannot see. These methods are totally different but leads to the same result in the end, therefore we expect that optical impression will replace gradually the conventional in the next future.

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