

Inside Story HIGHLIGHTS

From the Pacific Radiology Referrer Newsletter



Pacific Radiology

Dental Cone Beam CT – a new dimension in dental scanning

Cone Beam CT (CBCT) is an application that is taking dentistry by storm.

With the patient seated in a chair (see picture on previous page), a single rotation of this cutting edge technology provides precise, immediate and accurate three-dimensional images.

The data acquired by the scan can be used for image guided treatment planning for procedures.

These scans can be used to assess the feasibility of placing dental implants at specific sites, and to ensure that every possible precaution has been taken to avoid the path of adjacent nerves, or entering the sinuses.

This technique is also helpful in the assessment of previously placed implants, to look for evidence of failure.

CBCT provides helpful information as to the position of impacted teeth relative to surrounding structures, and is able to evaluate the bones of the temporo-mandibular joint.

Developing applications of this technique include the assessment of airways volume in patients with sleep apnoea.

For dentists and oral surgeons this technique promises increased precision, at lower radiation doses, and lower cost when compared with conventional medical CAT scans.

The data acquired by the scan is presented on a CD with a fully functional software programme included, allowing the referrer the ability to manipulate, measure and print images to accommodate their patient's dental concerns.

Cone Beam CT provides the third dimension to dental imaging and is extending the role of dental imaging from diagnosis to image guidance of procedures.

~ Terence Cousins



Terence Cousins

