

5 Tips to Go Pro

with Your Dental Photography



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1



Adjust the dental chair or your height to that of the patient:

Raise the dental chair! When taking a picture for a shade, the photographer should be at the same horizontal plane as the patient. Then, have the patient sit upright, not leaning back and turned toward the photographer. This will help eliminate unwanted glare from ceiling lights and help control the angle of the camera to the tooth.

Pro Tip 1: Reduce unwanted highlights and control what you capture in the image by this simple but rarely done procedure.

2



Check your environment & lighting:

Understanding and planning for your operatory or shade room environment will help avoid common mistakes. Close the big window blinds or turn your dental chair away from the window during picture time. You may want to turn off your overhead lights to reduce the amount of highlights on the teeth. You don't see shade or other characterization under a highlight.

Pro Tip 2: An overabundance of highlights on teeth is bad because it hides the necessary detail from the lab technician. Simple procedures fix the problem and gives the technician what they need.

3



Retraction to expose teeth:

It's important to identify then expose the tooth you are trying to match and make sure the patient opens slightly so that the incisal edges are apart. The result is, tooth shape and translucency are better revealed.

Pro Tip 3: Avoid common mistakes such as pictures of temporaries, missing teeth or the tooth that is broken down being replaced.

4

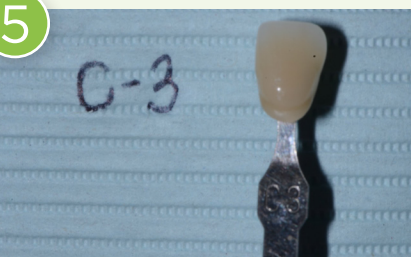


Take your picture before the prep and take a stump shade picture:

Have a procedural checklist so you don't miss taking the initial shade, before the preparation. A dehydrated tooth often looks different when hydrated. Also, it's important to take a stump shade picture if your restorative material is translucent.

Pro Tip 4: Plan and think. Don't miss the opportunity for a stump shade and start calling stump shade "prep shade," it sounds nicer, especially to a patient.

5



Record the name of the shade tab:

Lab technicians cannot accurately match a tooth if the name of the shade tab is unknown. A good way to record the name of the shade tab is to lay it on a tray mat, write its name and take a picture.

Pro Tip 5: Why write the name? Depending on the angle, metal can be reflective making the name non-readable, like the picture shown.