Extra Oral Techniques

Techniques for photographing Full face and profile views will be discussed here, including recommended settings.

Some practices, for record purposes, routinely photograph patients on their first visit. Digital imaging makes this practical and not too time consuming. It also has the advantage that it can be carried out by any one of the dental team. The pre-requisites for successful images are;

a. light clear background e.g. wall,
b. about 5-6 feet between the camera and subject.

Patient consent for the images to be taken, even if they are only for 'case record', should be obtained. Contact mike@thedigitaldentist.co.uk to request a sample form.

Settings for Extra Oral shots are:

**Compact Cameras:**

Set to ‘P’ Programme…Zoom bar set towards ‘Telephoto’ end..if you set anywhere near the ‘Wide angle’ end..usually to the left…you will get a distorted image.

ISO set at lowest.

**Digital SLRs:**

Leave on ‘M’ manual and 1/200th but set aperture to say f8..if image too dark change ISO to 200 or next setting up from lowest…if too light change to F11.

Standard ringflashes are not ideal for recording full facial views, they tend to give flat lighting and also a 'halo' shadow effect on the background

An ideal flash from America incorporates both ringflash and a point flash, which means at the flick of a switch you can change between the two, ring for your intra oral shots and the point flash for facial views.

The flash is available from www.thedigitaldentist.co.uk on the ‘Shop’ page, and is ideal for use in practice.