

iPad in business: Advancing digital dentistry



_When new patients enter Dr Jonathan Ferencz's thriving prosthodontics practice in midtown Manhattan, they are greeted with a smile—and an iPad.

For Dr Ferencz, the latest technology has always driven quality patient care. As an early iPad adopter, Dr Ferencz knew the device could launch a new era in digital dentistry. iPad has become central to all aspects of the practice. In addition to simplifying patient forms and record-keeping, iPad enables Dr Ferencz to show his clients photos of treatment options. And his technicians refer to digital images on iPad to create perfect-looking dental prosthetics.

_Painless patient records

iPad simplifies the record-keeping process for both patients and staff. Rather than designing, filling out, scanning, and then shredding paper forms, Dr Ferencz and his staff have created a fast, efficient system using iPad.

Patients complete their intake forms directly on iPad using the Adobe Ideas app, and can even sign the form using a stylus on the iPad screen. From there, a member of his staff emails the forms into the practice's database. There is no paper and nothing to file. "It is efficient," Dr Ferencz says. "With iPad, we save so much time—and space."



And patients can stay productive and up-to-date with their personal lives during their visits. "If there is any kind of wait before the appointment, we give them an iPad," Dr Ferencz says. "They can check their email, surf the Internet, read the *New York Times*—all the rich content that is available on iPad."

Putting iPad into patients' hands also helps emphasize Dr Ferencz's commitment to the latest and best dental practices. "It conveys a subliminal message that this office is up-to-date technologically," he says. "So they know that we are up-to-date in our dentistry as well."

_Visual conversations

When patients enter the treatment room, iPad takes on another role: communication tool. Prosthodontics deals with aesthetic and reconstructive dentistry, such as crowns and veneers. Dr Ferencz's challenge is to get patients to see what he sees, and to show them what he can do. With iPad, he can effortlessly display photo-

graphs and X-rays to patients during consultations. And using the Adobe Ideas app, he can annotate the images onscreen while pointing out areas of interest.

"iPad is ideally suited to this kind of visual conversation," he says. "The patient and I can flip through the X-rays and clinical photos together, and I can illustrate my points as we go." Because the patient has a visual idea of the procedure and a sense of what the outcome will look like, the result is a direct improvement in care. "With iPad, I can greatly enhance patient acceptance of my proposed treatment," Dr Ferencz says.

Helping him in the conversation are two iPad features that Ferencz can not match elsewhere: high resolution and zooming. "The resolution of iPad is so incredible that I can see details I could not on a conventional X-ray," he says. Zooming also allows Dr Ferencz to focus a patient's attention on one aspect of the image. "To do that with your fingers is absolutely invaluable, compared to a laptop or a conventional display."

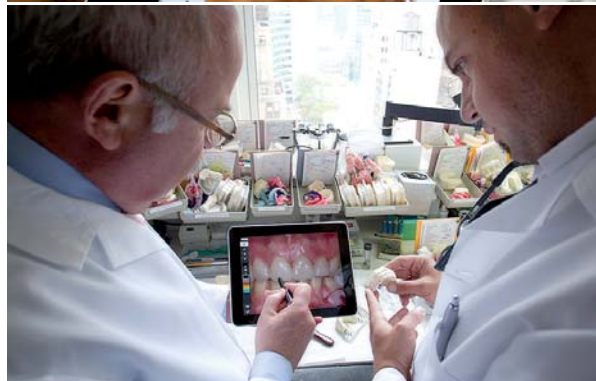
iPad in the laboratory

Dr Ferencz's iPad use does not end in the treatment room. Immediately after a discussion with a patient using iPad, Dr Ferencz might bring the device to his in-house laboratory to demonstrate an issue to one of his technicians. "On a dental restoration, the most effective way to make a correction is to show the photograph to my technician and say, 'Here is how I would like you to reshape it,'" he says. "That way, we are having a conversation about a clinical photograph, not a drawing or a diagram."

From there, the technician can get to work. "The technician just takes out an iPad, pulls up the images, and goes to work," Dr Ferencz says.

A business of trust

iPad is also a powerful, persuasive way to share images during doctor-patient conversations about treatment options. "On our first day with iPad, I used it three times to show patients X-rays and photographs of clinical conditions," Dr Ferencz explains. "And in each case the patient booked the procedure immediately." When he asked the patients whether the presentation on iPad had an impact on their decisions, one of them said, "I trust Dr Ferencz, and I would have done what he said, but the way the images appeared was just amazing. I had to schedule the procedure immediately."



In a single day, iPad paid for itself. "As a business owner, I think iPad is a no-brainer," Dr Ferencz says. "With its high resolution and ease of use, iPad has the ability to make a major impact on oral health care."

And this is just the beginning. "I think we have just begun to scratch the surface with iPad applications," he says. "It really is totally revolutionary." _

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