

# THE NEW PATIENT EXAMINATION

## CASE PRESENTATION

**T**he new patient examination is critical to properly treating a patient. Everything we do and recommend comes from this important fact-finding mission.

When a new patient presents to our office, we begin with a thorough review of his or her medical and dental history. I then do a brief intraoral examination to ascertain the radiographic needs of the patient. I begin with an extraoral soft-tissue examination of the head and neck, along with the lips and the cheeks intraorally. I then start my visual caries examination. If I detect an area of concern, I use an intraoral camera (Polaris, Air Techniques) for enhanced magnification and documentation. If my visual and physical exam indicates there may be caries present, I use a Spectra caries detection device (Air Techniques) to supplement that data and ensure a more accurate diagnosis.

After concluding the caries examination, I perform an intraoral soft-tissue exam under white light. I then complete my exam using an adjunctive VELscope oral cancer detection device (DenMat).

When gathering radiographic documentation for a new patient, there are many options. In my office, we have the choice of both phosphor plates and sensors. In many cases, a single sensor size (we only have number 2 sensors) does not work for everyone, and phosphor plates are a good option to have on hand. The following photographs show many of the steps when using phosphor plate technology during a new patient exam.

After gathering and recording all diagnostic data from this initial examination and entering it into the patient's electronic file, I spend time with the patient discussing his or her dental health using images from the exam, as well as other visual and educational aids. All patient questions are answered immediately either directly by me or through the use of Guru patient education software (Henry Schein Dental).



**Marty Jablow, DMD**, an Editorial Advisory Board Member of *Dental Product Shopper*, is a clinician, speaker, and author. He presents and publishes worldwide on many topics, including state of the art dental technology and dental materials. Dr. Jablow is president of Dental Technology Solutions a lecture and consulting company. He is an active member of the ADA, NJDA, Middlesex County Dental Association, and has achieved Fellowships in the AGD and International Academy of Dental Facial Esthetics. For more than 20 years, he has been a member of his local peer review and was an attending at the JFK Medical Center in Edison NJ, where he worked with patients and trained residents.



Figure 1—The ScanX phosphor plate (Air Techniques) is placed in barrier sleeve.



Figure 2—The phosphor plate is placed into a standard XCP holder (DENTSPLY Rinn).

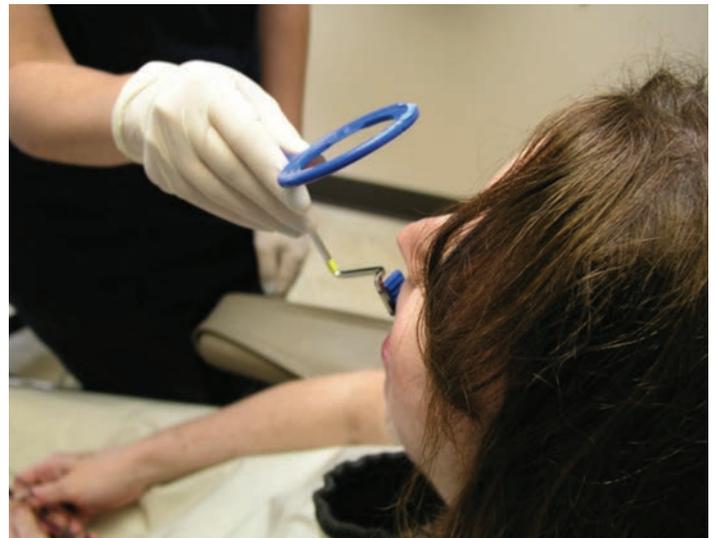


Figure 3—The patient has the protective apron (DUX Dental) placed and the XCP holder and plate is placed into the mouth.



Figure 4—The plate is exposed using the NOMAD Pro 2 (Aribex).



Figure 5—The barrier is opened before insertion to the Scan-X Swift (Air Techniques).



Figure 6—The phosphor plate is placed into the scanner.



Figure 7—The phosphor plate has passed through the scanner and the plate has been erased.



Figure 8—The radiograph is displayed in imaging software.

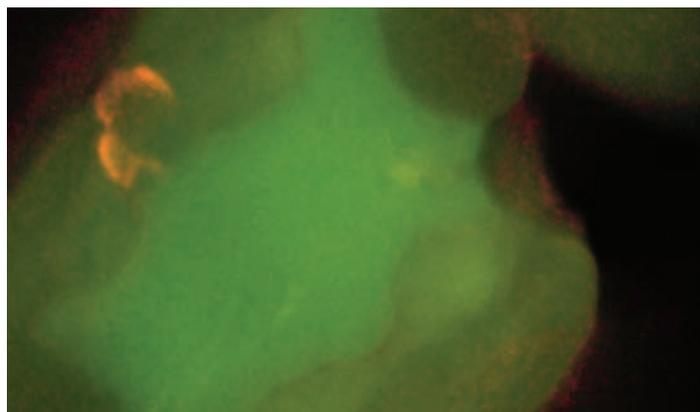


Figure 9—Spectra (Air Techniques) diagnostic image. Notice how easy it is to distinguish composite from tooth structure.

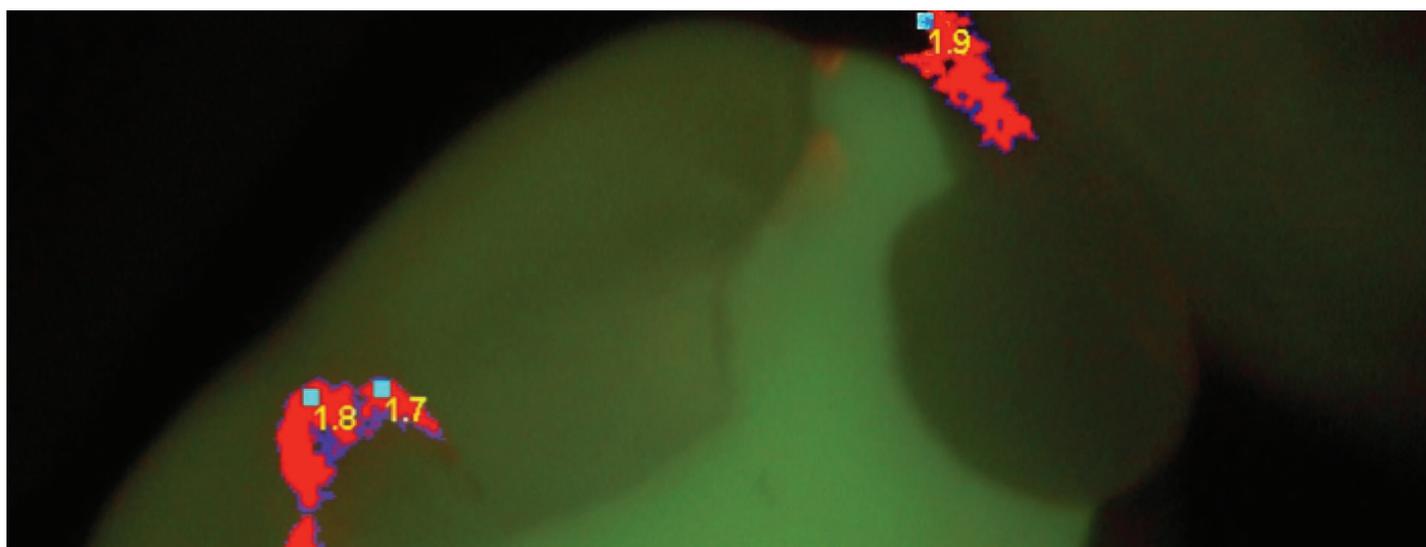


Figure 10—Spectra analytic image showing weather radar overlay.

## GO-TO PRODUCTS USED IN THIS CASE



### NOMAD PRO 2

Aribex's NOMAD Pro 2 is more durable and reliable and features superior battery performance vs the previous Pro model. The Pro 2's newly designed battery handset, with infrared connectors, together with a new charging cradle improves the system's durability and boosts battery performance.

**ARIBEX, INC**  
866.340.5522  
<http://aribex.com/>



### REVERSIBLE BRONZE CHARCOAL LEAD-FREE X-RAY APRON

DUX Dental offers an alternative to the common dental x-ray apron with the reversible bronze/charcoal lead-free apron. The bronze and charcoal colors will hide the wear of the apron which is commonly seen with lighter blues, pinks and grays.

**DUX DENTAL**  
800.833.8267  
<http://www.duxdental.com/>



### SCANX SWIFT

ScanX Swift by Air Techniques unites thin, flexible, cordless sensors with a fast image scanner to deliver a phosphor-plate imaging system that can send images to a monitor just as quickly as rigid sensors. ScanX Swift sensors are cordless and are 30 times thinner than rigid sensors.

**AIR TECHNIQUES, INC**  
800.147.8324  
<http://www.airtechniques.com/>



### XCP-QT

XCP-QT universal disposable sensor holder is the ideal solution for quick and easy intraoral radiographs. XCP-QT disposable sensor holders are designed to hold intraoral digital x-ray sensors for radiographic imaging and are compatible with Rinn XCP and XCPORA positioning arms and rings.

**DENTSPLY RINN**  
800.323.0970  
<http://www.rinncorp.com/>

