

## Importance of Mobile Photography in Dental Practice

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Respected Editor,

This letter aims to explain the importance of using cell phones to take helpful images with high efficiency in various types of dental procedures. In our dental practices' photography is an effective tool. Its applications are widespread such as in the diagnosis and treatment planning, keeping an illustrative clinical history, legal documentation, publishing, and delivering lectures.<sup>1</sup> In modern dentistry, photography has grown into a standard of treatment. With the advent of digital technology these days, photography has now become simpler and widely available. Even then, few practitioners introduce them in their daily practices due to reasons such as a lack of expertise in cameras, lenses, and technique, disruption of workflow, and cost considerations. The use of smartphones with improved technology, however, is constantly emerging. It allows every practitioner with minimal interruptions in their patient workflow to incorporate photography into his or her practice.<sup>2</sup> Making images from mobile in dentistry has multi-level importance. Its implementation in dental practice is simple, swift, and extremely useful in recording working practices, conducting health promotion sessions, and administering clinical examinations, thus providing dentists and patients with many advantages.<sup>1-2</sup>

With the evolution of mobile cameras, an impact on digital photography made it accessible and high-definition pictures can now easily be taken. DSLR (Digital Single Lens Reflex) cameras are still frequently used in dentistry to capture high macro images, but due to rapid technological growth, smartphones can now produce high-quality images.<sup>3</sup> Smartphones and tablet cameras were not initially developed for dentistry. Therefore, practitioners must treat their device as a camera and not as a phone in overcoming the perception

of smartphones in the development of low-quality photographs. There are many distinct advantages of using smartphones in dental practice rather than using an expensive and heavy camera. Requirements for the realization of photography are the white balance, expansion, focus, ISO, calculation, and shutter velocity which is offered by the last generations of smartphones. Smartphones can achieve a large field of vision owing to their compact size, diaphragm, have good ISO adaptation and greater light sensitivity with little noise. When it comes to displaying good resolution data is required. They offer a wide display to preview pictures. Their battery timings allow the practitioners to work for hours, the settings can be modified manually, and they are light in weight and user friendly.<sup>1,3</sup>

Irrespective of equipment, the key factor of dental photography refers to the restricted amount of light available inside the oral cavity, specifically when posterior teeth are photographed.<sup>4-5</sup> A continuous light source developed to provide a huge spectrum of lighting choices, allowing smartphone photos of better quality and offering a convenient way that matches most cell phones (55-85 mm width range).<sup>4</sup>

With the rapid advancement in smartphone technologies, it is not too early to predict that mobile phones are making their way to replace expensive, heavy, and technique sensitive cameras with their high quality and user-friendly photographs.

### Authors Contribution:

**Dilkush Zafar:** Drafted the manuscript

**Ahsan Inayat:** Gave the concept, reviewed and did the corrections in the letter

**Uzma Anam:** Drafted the manuscript and searched for literature

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