

Essentials of dental photography



The photographs have become an essential document in dentistry. The lack of acquaintance on the technique, equipment, and advancements has limited its appropriate usage. It is mandatory to have the understanding on its use to obtain the needed advantages. The knowledge is necessary from the principles of photography, equipment, accessories, lighting, settings, setups, postprocessing, purpose of its use – printing, documentation, and publication.^[1,2]

The digital single lens reflex (DSLR) camera with a macro lens and ring or point flash combination has become an essential tool in digital dental photography. The usage of macro lens depends on the type of intraoral pictures made. The 90, 100, or 105 mm macro lens is used for close views of two teeth two teeth, 85 mm macro lens for quadrant captures, and 60 mm macro lens for full mouth images.^[2,3] The usage of close views is mandatory for prosthodontist for color accuracy and for varied documentations in prosthodontics. It is preferable to have 1:1 or 1:2 images for better appreciation.

The intraoral pictures made should provide the features of color and sufficient information on the manifestations of intraoral structures to differentiate from the disease to healthy tissue details. These details aid in documentation, communication between the patients, technicians, and dentists, and monitor the progress of diseases and treatment state. The accepted default setups are ISO 100, 200, or 400. Lesser the ISO, it is better to reduce the image noise. Ideally, ISO setting is not appreciated in prosthodontics or dental photography.^[4] It is preferable to have customized settings. The use of f/22 for intraoral and f/10 for extraoral picture is appreciated. The shutter speed of 1/200, white balance in flash setting and raw/JPEG file storage formatting is favored. The use of appropriate accessories, mirrors, cheek retractors,

contractors, and gray cards provides more appreciable intraoral pictures.^[5]

The Post finishing varies with the journal requirements.^[6] Ideally, the unnecessary areas in the photographs have to be trimmed and removed. All photographs of the individuals should be accompanied with written permission. In an adapted image, the source should be acknowledged and the written permission of the copyright holder should be submitted. The images should be appropriately credited in the legend of each image. A maximum of forty words with Arabic numerals corresponding to the illustrations in double spacing should be used in naming the legend. The symbols, arrows, numbers, and letters used in images should be explained in the legend. The magnification scale used and the method of staining in photomicrographs should be mentioned for better appreciation. The final figures for print production should have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi or 1800 × 1600 pixels in TIFF format (varies with journals).^[7] The journals reserves the right to modify the photographs to acceptable dimension.

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