Scan perfectly with CEREC Primescan, and gain time for what is really important: your patients

By Dr. Bernhild-Elke Stamnitz, Germany

At a practice in which digital technologies have been prioritized right from the start, new devices are a real pleasure, rather than a duty. That’s why Dr. Bernhild-Elke Stamnitz, from Langen, Germany was delighted to be one of the first dentists to be able to use CEREC Primescan, the new intraoral scanner from Dentsply Sirona, for her daily work. As a CEREC coach, she is very familiar with digital impressioning, but she is convinced, from her first experiences with the device, that CEREC Primescan represents a great advance in quality.

“I simply love new technologies,” explains Dr. Bernhild-Elke Stamnitz. She has her own fully digital practice, which she has been running in Langen since 2004. During her studies in Heidelberg, she had her first encounters with CAD/CAM technologies in dentistry: “At the time, it was a long way from being perfect, but in my opinion, the idea behind it was ground-breaking,” she says. “Whereas, in the early days of digital impressioning, we still asked ourselves which indications it could really be used for, today we ask ourselves: Where can’t it be used?”

For Dr. Stamnitz, the advantages are obvious. “First of all, it’s simply faster,” she explains. “One only has to consider the various steps of the process: lay out spoons of various sizes and try them for size. Afterwards, all of them have to be prepared for use. Then the material for the impressioning has to be selected, and then the impressioning has to be done perfectly, so you have to repeat some steps. All of that can be omitted if you use digital impressioning.”

The dentist from Langen also sees a path to more sustainability in digital impressioning because nothing has to be thrown away afterwards, the need to store materials is reduced, and – most importantly for Dr. Stamnitz – it saves time and money on the patient. “Digital technology is also a great communication tool. During digital impressioning, the patient experiences what’s going on, they can see the situation in their mouth on the screen and they are far better able to understand why and what the treatment is necessary.

“Very Good” becomes “Virtually Perfect”

“One has to understand that digital impressioning has been a huge success because of how easy it is to get the scan. The software can do a lot. I am often surprised at how good the suggestions are. Mostly, in this case I am very satisfied after just a few minor adjustments.”

CEREC Primescan – a practical test

A case history demonstrates how CEREC Primescan proves its worth in everyday practice. A patient came to the practice with an inadequate crown, with secondary teeth, in position 77. After excavation, a new CEREC crown was to be mounted in order to do so, the new acquisition center, CEREC Primescan AC, with its significantly larger, tiltable touch screen, was supplied, quickly and thoroughly. Thanks to the seamless surfaces, it is possible to do so quickly and simply at any time. Before beginning with the scan, the patient data was called up in CEREC Primescan AC, and a new case was created. Overall, the scanner was used three times during treatment: after the preparation of the lower dental arch with tooth 77, for the further processing of the scan, and for the scan of the buccal bite on both sides. All of that could be delegated to an assistant, but the experienced CEREC user prefers to do it by herself: “I am interested in this technology, and – I’ll be completely honest – scanning is so much fun.”

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The software learns together with the user

The reason for the significantly improved initial suggestions with the CEREC Software 5 is the use of artificial intelligence. With immediate effect, the new generation of software learns, together with the user, so that it can already create even better initial suggestions for future versions. Not only are the initial suggestions for the crowned improved by artificial intelligence, the entire workflow is supported by the software, in many areas. In this way, the indications for the restoration are automatically recognized, and the preparation is delineated. The axis for the crown is included. Since Dr. Stamnitz is fascinated by working directly on the screen, “The workflow is very simple, and thanks to the operation via the touch screen, I can maintain my concentration. I can keep my eyes on the screen constantly,” she says. During the designing and the preparations for making the crown, the patient was there, and she could watch her dentist at work. “In cases like this, the treatment experience is always something very special for my patients.” Dr. Stamnitz remarks. “They are included at all times, and they are able to ask questions and they can experience, live, how the crown is made.”

This was possible thanks to a Sirona D200 scanner, a zirconia-reinforced lithium silicate with excellent aesthetic properties and a high degree of stability. The crown was ready after just a few minutes. Even during fitting, it was evident that it was a perfect fit. The crown was individualized and glazed with color and glazing material. Then it was cemented into the patient’s mouth with a high-strength flowable composite cement adhesive (California Composite, Jenic). All of this in about 90 minutes. This proved to be a practical test, which the patient was there, and she could watch her dentist at work. “In cases like this, the treatment experience is always something very special for my patients.” Dr. Stamnitz remarks. “They are included at all times, and they are able to ask questions and they can experience, live, how the crown is made.”

Better quality in less time

The accuracy of the scan, and the speed of the data acquisition and processing, obviously has a direct impact on the end result – to an experienced user, this becomes apparent immediately. The structure of the crown, especially on the edges, is highly dependent on the quality of the impression – and this is where it pays to use CEREC Primescan. Dr. Stamnitz: “Thanks to the new CEREC Software 5, the ground or milled restorations are worked even more finely and in more detail. And all of this in an even shorter process, from scan to insertion. I spend the time I save on the entire process on my patients. We gain the time to build up a good relationship with them. We are not simply treating a tooth. We are dealing with a patient every time. That’s exactly who should be the centre of focus. Because there is more to the lovely smile we help them to achieve, than just attractive, healthy teeth.”

About the author

Dr. Bernhild-Elke Stamnitz
A dentist from Langen, Germany is full of praise for the ease of use that makes intraoral scanning easier than ever before.