

Preface



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Guest Editors

Although nothing can replace history and physical examination when evaluating patients, the use and evolution of non-invasive technology for imaging areas not visible to the human eye has become a bigger part of the diagnostic process. Dental imaging has advanced rapidly over the last years. Static projectional images were relied upon for diagnoses in the maxillofacial region, but we are moving toward digital, three-dimensional (3D) and interactive imaging applications. Much of this movement is attributed to a recently introduced CT technology known as “cone-beam computed tomography” or “digital volume tomography.” This technology has offered dentists a view of all angles of areas of concern. This technology has been embraced quickly by the dental profession. It is considered as “what was missing” by many in the field.

3D imaging has improved diagnostic efficiency and the practice of dentistry in a variety of ways; from routine evaluation to complex analysis of unusual pathology and congenital deformities, the technology available today makes dentistry better, and easier, and more accurate. At the same time, a plethora of applications have been developed that use the three-dimensional data for a variety of tasks: implant planning, surgical navigation, orthodontic applications, and more. All of this is for the benefit of patients.

Dental Clinics of North America always is committed to presenting advances in the dental field and has honored us with the charge to assemble a panel of experts to present a broad view of the advancements in maxillofacial imaging and the various applications of 3D imaging in dentistry. We

thank the *Dental Clinics of North America* for this honor. We also thank all of the authors who contributed to this issue; all of them are recognized experts in their field.

Lastly, several brand names of software applications and solutions are mentioned throughout this issue. The use of such software programs reflects the personal preference of the author(s) and is neither a recommendation nor an endorsement by the guest editors and the publisher. We recommend a thorough search for evidence before deciding to incorporate one or more of these applications in one's practice.

We sincerely hope you will be stimulated and challenged by what you read in this issue and that you will find the information useful in caring for your patients.

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