



# Striving For Perfection & Achieving Excellence

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# President's Message

## The Transformational Impact of AI on Dentistry: A Paradigm Shift in Oral Healthcare



**Thomas Kitsos, RDT**  
President, Incisal Edge

In recent years, the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into various sectors has heralded a new era of innovation and efficiency. Among these fields, dentistry stands as a prime example of how AI is revolutionizing traditional practices and reshaping the landscape of oral healthcare. From diagnosis to treatment planning and patient care, AI is making significant strides in enhancing the precision, speed, and effectiveness of dental procedures. This editorial delves into the profound impact of AI on dentistry, highlighting its transformative potential and the implications for both practitioners and patients.

One of the most notable areas where AI is leaving its mark is in the realm of diagnostics. Traditional methods of detecting oral diseases and abnormalities often rely heavily on manual examination and subjective interpretation, leading to potential inaccuracies and delays in treatment. However, AI-powered imaging technologies, such as machine learning algorithms applied to radiographs and 3D scans, are enabling dentists to achieve unprecedented levels of accuracy in diagnosing conditions ranging from cavities and periodontal disease to oral cancers. These algorithms can analyze vast amounts of data with remarkable speed and efficiency, assisting clinicians in identifying subtle anomalies that might escape the naked eye. By facilitating early detection and intervention, AI-driven diagnostic tools hold the promise of improving patient outcomes and reducing the prevalence of advanced oral health problems.

Moreover, AI is also streamlining administrative tasks and practice management, thereby enabling dentists to focus more on patient care. Automated systems powered by AI algorithms can handle appointment scheduling, billing, and inventory management with unparalleled efficiency, reducing administrative burdens and improving workflow optimization. By freeing up time and resources, AI empowers dental professionals to devote more attention to clinical activities, continuous education, and research endeavors, ultimately driving advancements in the field.

However, as AI continues to proliferate in dentistry, it is essential to address potential challenges and ethical considerations. Dentists must navigate these challenges thoughtfully, ensuring that AI technologies are deployed responsibly and ethically to uphold patient trust and confidentiality.

In conclusion, the integration of AI into dentistry represents a paradigm shift in oral healthcare, offering exceptional opportunities to enhance diagnostics, treatment planning, and patient care. However, as we embrace the transformative potential of AI, it is imperative to remain vigilant and address the associated challenges to ensure that these technologies are leveraged responsibly for the benefit of practitioners, dental labs and patients alike.

***Thomas Kitsos, RDT***

# 10 Common Challenges That Keep Dentists Awake at Night

Employ these survey results to foster an open dialogue aimed at resolving and addressing the problematic areas within your clinic.

## 1. Overhead and Cash Flow Concerns

What is the break-even amount to meet the practice expenses?

## 2. Team Synergy and Recruiting

What challenges do you face with your team during the course of the day?

## 3. Dealing with Insurance

Where does insurance fit in your practice and philosophy?

## 4. New Patient Flow and Marketing

How many new patients do you get per month and where do they come from?

## 5. Cancellations and Open Schedules

What percentage of your schedule is due to no-shows and cancellations?

## 6. Expansion/Moving/Renovating

What is your growth strategy for your practice for the next 3 to 5 years?

## 7. Technology

What is your favorite part of technology?

## 8. More Time Off

What percentage of your time is free time for work-life balance?

## 9. Case Acceptance

What type of Dentistry do you love to do most, and is this happening?

## 10. Debt and Succession Planning

How many more years do you want to practice?



## Post Treatment Maintenance Template for Patients

- The teeth or implants that support your fixed crowns can **develop gum disease** if proper care is NOT given to them
- Professional **checkups and cleanings are mandatory** every **three to six months**
- Home care – **brushing and flossing** – should be performed three times daily
- The hygienist will recommend a daily program for your needs
- Since the final **crowns and bridges** are made of **porcelain, denture resin**; eating **hard candies** or ice may cause them to **fracture or damage**
- If the **crown or bridge becomes loose**, or if any **changes to the bite occur**, please **notify the office immediately**.
- If you **grind your teeth at night**, it is advisable to have a **professional night guard**, which is custom-made for your bite and protects all of your teeth. Be sure to wear it every night.

## Internal HEX: Implant

### *Advantages of the Internal Connection*

- Less screw loosening
- Better esthetic
- Improved microbial seal
- Better joint strength
- More platform switching options

### *Disadvantages of the Internal Connection*

- The weakest link is the bone rather than the retaining prosthetic screw
- There is less historical literature on internal connections than external connections

## The Golden Rules of Successful Dentists

1. Surround yourself with good staff
2. Be approachable to staff and patients alike
3. Inform before you perform
4. Do not hurt the patient
5. Take ownership when things go wrong
6. Educate yourself and never stop
7. Do what makes you happy...if you are not happy, move on
8. Do not forget you are only human

