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What is your photo style?

Digital photography and video shooting have become standard tools for documentation and communication in everyday practice. Most practitioners use digital single-lens reflex (DSLR) cameras, with a macro lens and a ring or lateral flash system. These systems have improved over the years in resolution, image quality, and color reproduction. They allow predictable and natural-looking image taking of intraoral and extraoral situations. Additionally, you can also shoot video sequences of your patients to attain more information regarding their smiles, their phonetics, etc. With the increasing resolution of our cameras, video documentation will become more important in the future.

“Present yourself in the best light” explains exactly the importance of light in any photograph or video we shoot in our daily work. On the next page you will see the same patient’s teeth photographed using a lateral flash (Fig 1a) and an indirect flash (Fig 1b). You will

probably agree that the two images look quite different. The light we use in our photography therefore results in different interpretations of our work.

In digital photography and video shooting, we need to define standards for documentation, not only for the angle of view but also for the light sources used and the fixed magnification ratios and sensor sizes (FX). These standards should be maintained throughout the entire documentation of our clinical work. We are presently working on a manuscript addressing this topic. If you feel that you are an artist, it is your prerogative to change your mode of image making when you are doing it for personal use, but not for scientific publication and presentation.

Enjoy reading!

Sincerely yours,
Alessandro Devigus



Fig 1a Image taken with a lateral flash.



Fig 1b Image taken with an indirect flash.