



## A Picture's Worth



Alessandro Devigus, Dr med dent  
*Editor-in-Chief*

I am sure you have experienced the following situation more than once: You have just completed a clinical case, and you and the patient are both very pleased with the esthetic outcome. The restoration looks beautiful. Suddenly, you think: "Why didn't I take a picture before I started? This would have been a nice case to present or publish!" Unfortunately, there's no way to turn back the clock and obtain this image.

Taking images is still not considered a standard procedure in daily practice. Yes, we do take pictures of extensive cases for our publications, presentations, and lectures, or for legal reasons. But this is not enough.

Further, I do not see many published articles in which a photographic protocol has been established or strictly followed. The number of articles on clinical photography has grown since digital photography became affordable and therefore more popular. However, as stated in last issue's featured article,<sup>1</sup> no uniform procedures for

producing high-quality dental photographs exist at present for authors and publishers.

Establishing effective and consistent methods for capturing images is important to faithfully recording and conveying clinical results. Varying angles of view and different amounts of cropping can not only make it difficult to compare before-and-after images, but also may have an effect on the accuracy of the picture (see "Choosing the Right Angle" on the next page).

Over the last several months, I have reviewed many articles submitted for publication in the *European Journal of Esthetic Dentistry*. They range in quality from very poor to excellent, especially in regard to the images.

It seems to be a challenge for many of us to combine clinical skills with an appropriate level of documentation. I would like to encourage you to take more images. Remember, with digital photography, additional images do not create additional cost, but the information they provide is priceless.