

# The patient journey

Ilan Preiss on how technology can help understanding.

As dental technology has become increasingly sophisticated, most of the new techniques focus around the dentist's chair. For example, modern power whitening techniques (in surgery bleaching) have led to greater convenience in the dental surgery, and implants have radically changed the way dentists and patients think about how to replace missing teeth.

However, the Lava Chairside Oral Scanner from 3M Espe, is set to provide a radical shift in dental technology as it will revolutionise the way dentists take dental impressions.

The conventional method of impression taking involved an unpleasant procedure of placing a

**Patients can view their teeth in detail from different angles through interaction using the touch screen.**

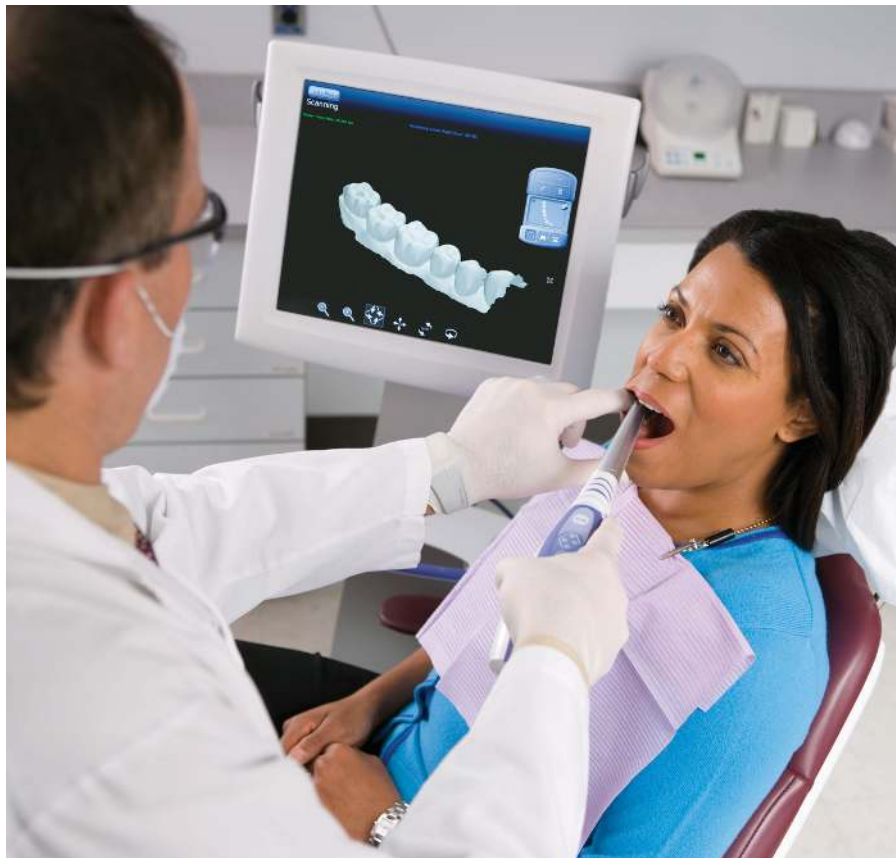
tray filled with flowable material into the patient's mouth, which then had to be left for several minutes for it to set. The tray was then removed and sent off in the post to a laboratory for processing.

With the Lava COS, this new digital technology is far less intrusive. The dentist simply places a small digital wand into the patient's mouth scanning the teeth. The computer attached to the scanning wand, processes the video data and converts the data into a 3D image. My



**Ilan Preiss**

is a dentist at Bow Lane Dental Practice.



● Communicating with patients has never been easier.

patients tell me the process is 'not as unpleasant as the old method where material can flow down the throat.'

Patients can view their teeth in detail from different angles through interaction using the touch screen. They are reassured the increased detail of the technology enables the dentist to work to a higher level of accuracy. It gives the patient a much greater understanding and appreciation of what the dentist is trying to achieve. My patients say things to me like, 'I never knew dentistry was so complex.'

Patients say the machine makes them feel secure in the knowledge our practice works with cutting edge

technology. We continue to push boundaries to ensure the service we provide is of the highest quality. Using technology such as the Lava COS helps us to deliver this message. The machine itself looks like a fancy piece of kit and patients are often so intrigued they will ask what the machine is used for.

I feel the ability to communicate with my patients has been vastly improved in this aspect of daily dentistry and look forward to hearing more positive comments from my patients. ■

For more information call 3M Espe on 0845 602 5094 or visit [www.3mespe.co.uk/lavacos](http://www.3mespe.co.uk/lavacos)