

DENTISTRY AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

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Contemporary three-dimensional digital scanning approach compared to conventional impression techniques in prosthetic dentistry. Patients' perception and satisfaction

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To optimize clinical work, digital workflow is broadly introduced in dental practice, therefore it is important to get perception and feedback from patients about digital scanning. Thirty patients from prosthodontic department who needed night guards, participated in the research. Patients fulfilled anonymous questionnaires after completion of both scanning and impression. Of 30 respondents, 23 had previously undergone conventional impressions, and seven had not. Five of 30 respondents had previously experienced digital intraoral scanning. After having undergone both procedures, 26 respondents liked digital scanning more, two respondents preferred conventional impression, one had no preference and one did not reply. These preference proportions differed significantly from equal probability proportions (Chi-Squared Goodness-of-Fit test, $X\text{-squared}(2)=41.448, p=9.991e-10$). Twenty-four respondents wished that next time they had digital scanning, four – conventional impression, and two had no preference ($X\text{-squared}(2)=29.6, p=3.736e-07$). Mean digital scanning duration was 231.5 seconds (standard deviation - 67.9 seconds), and mean impression procedure duration – 233.5 seconds (standard deviation - 27.4 seconds). Multinomial logistic regression did not reveal any impacts of procedure type durations on respondents' procedure type preference, including having no preference at all. Association between respondents' perception of which procedure type was quicker and preference for procedure type was low (Cramer's $V = 0.233$). Respondents primarily preferred digital scanning because it was: more comfortable (5 respondents), fast (4 respondents), more pleasant (4 respondents), more convenient (3 respondents), not causing gag reflex (3 respondents), a modern method (3 respondents), a clean procedure (2 respondents). There were several other individual reasons for preferring digital scanning. One respondent disliked the warming sensation from the scanner head, and one doubted the accuracy of scanning. One respondent preferred material flavour and one – jaw resting, during the conventional impression. One disliked tooth sensitivity exacerbated by conventional impression. Altogether, patients preferred digital scanning due to its superior comfort, pleasantness and convenience.



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Biography

Patrīcija Jursevica has graduated from the University of Latvia- dentistry programme of medical faculty. She is undergoing post-graduate studies in programme of prosthetic dentistry at the Institute of Stomatology of Riga Stradiņš University (Latvia). She continuously participates in interdisciplinary seminars with doctors from other dental specialities as well leads groups of international and local students in prosthetic modules.

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