

Superlative Diagnostics



Interview with dr Csigi Tamás

'That is a tooth,' I replied to Dr Csigi Tamás who had shown me a white spot in the X-ray picture questioningly. An upper jaw with its denture was displayed on the monitor. 'Are you sure?' he asked. 'Yes, because I can recognize the upper jaw and that dot on the left blends in with the colour of the crowns and the place of the teeth,' I stated proudly and I was delighted to make use of my little

knowledge about radiography. 'It is no tooth,' he replied mutely reaching for the mouse. I looked at him with raised eyebrows left with something whispering in my ears I had been beaten. Thanks to the 3D CT, Dr Csigi Tamás immediately demonstrated to me by two clicks the thing we were watching was no tooth but an air-gun pellet...

– *Nothing can be kept secret from this machine...*

– No doubt, it is our objective that the area to be treated should keep nothing secret from the doctor. Look at that four-rooted tooth there. No dentist could ever have treated it.'

– *Why?*

– In the majority of cases a tooth like this has at most three root canals. Using a simple X-ray device the fourth root would be hidden.'

I admired this certainty of technique and accidents and I would have even listening to dr Csigi for days as he more and more introduced me in details going on from one section to the next. We were engrossed in it like a virtual game and after then I could hardly imagine him in a white gown, mask and with dental instruments just starting some treatment.

– *Are you satisfied with your Profession? From a perspective of years, do you still feel that you have made the right choice?*

– Absolutely. I did not want to sit behind a desk and I did not want to become a research scientist or engineer either. I am a manual type of man who still today dismantles, repairs and puts together lots of things.'

– *You are a curious man...*

– I can take a wrong Winchester apart too; you always can learn something. I thought then I could combine intellectual activity with manual dexterity in Dental Profession.

The Diagnostic Centre

In the central part of Buda there is a thriving private dental praxis. 'What comes next?' – I could ask myself knowing such a creative man like him. More patients, nicer wall-papers or a bigger dental office perhaps? No...

– *When you set up the diagnostic centre eight years ago, I think, you saw in it a way for advancing within the Profession. Now that you have the latest 3D CT device you made another step forward.*

– Yes, we did. Here we offer dentists an opportunity which was accessible only through the referral-system up to now. Do not forget that the private profile of Dentistry grew stronger in the last twenty years; in addition, we have more international patients and after the EU accession we need to close up to some degree. Small radiographic centres like this with almost the same capacity compared to that at a clinic provide different environment and atmosphere and aim at another clientele.

– *How long has the new unit been working?*

– It is an investment made one and a half months ago.

– *As good as a fresh cake from the oven... Which medical fields are you aiming at?*

– This is a device with a relatively little sensor recommended to colleagues who specialised in maxillo-facial surgery including experts in Periodontology, Or-



Air-gun pellet in the mouth for 30 years.

thodontics and Implantology but it is also a great help in Endodontics.

– You had simpler X-ray units earlier. Does this 3D device replace the others?

– They will work side by side for the time being but it will most likely replace the old ones.

– I think it is not worth using 3D CT for a root canal treatment.

– Look, if there is no problem that indicates it, we have no reason for using it because of its slightly higher level of radiation than that of normal units.

– How much does a radiograph cost in your dental office?

– A digital panoramic and a cranial radiograph along with the utility program cost HUF 4000 each. A 3D image provides complete freedom of a three-dimensional cranial CT with a more complex piece of software than the previous one. This package costs HUF 20 000.

– Taking the abilities of the “miracle machine”, quality and precision into consideration I say it is a reasonable price...’

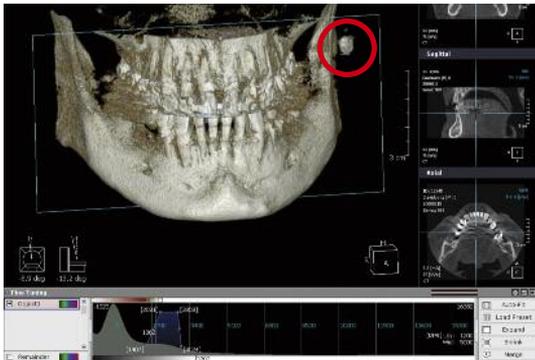
– I agree. Compared to the investment costs and looking at the current prices of private dental practices such a diagnostic examination is negligible. It is not paid by the doctor, so do not spare your patient any referral to our centre!

Planning possibilities

I think nobody needs to be convinced of the advantages of a three-dimensional image for the work of clinicians in Orthodontics and Oral Surgery.

– To what extent does 3D radiography help in implant planning?’

– Completely. Thanks to the three dimensions we can have a look into the maxillary sinus and gain information about the conditions of the mucous membrane, mandible and maxilla, the bone thickness between maxillary sinus and oral cavity, quality of bone density and if necessary the quantity of bone replacement.



The real position of the air-gun pellet is clearly recognizable in the 3D image.

– Even implant placement sounds to me frightening enough, yet hearing this I feel safe. Is a 3D examination indicated also post-operative?

– Of course, during the post-treatment! We can follow the process of osseointegration and virtually walk around the implants.

– Once engaged in details so much we should not forget about Orthodontics and Oral Surgery. Am I right?

– This is a very good question since an orthodontist has to measure a great deal of angles and dimensions during treatment planning. But a 3D CT has the same effectiveness in Oral Surgery for a fracture line, extent of a tumour, place of lesions, mucosal alterations of the maxillary sinus and I could go on without end how many other possibilities.

Hobbies

At the beginning of our talk, when Dr Csigi Tamás had shown me the new “jewel” of the diagnostic centre, I unintentionally had a look through the open door in the room to the right. Directly on the opposite wall, a guitar caught my eye which is not an ordinary sight in a dental office.

– Is that guitar in the glass-case a part of your past or present?’

– I was about 16 when I learnt to play the guitar. I had been dreaming of a Gibson guitar since I was a child and of that I will buy one sometime if I can.

– When did your dream come true?

– Not so long - about five years ago.’

– Did you perhaps play music professionally?

– I did not get at that level but I came to love it incredibly.

– When did you play the guitar last?

– Today. There was a Gibson in the glass-case and I have replaced it with this Carvin.

– A last plunk before it gets behind the pane,’ I smiled.

– Yes. Carvin manufactures guitars for sixty years and Steve Vai also plays one.

– Do you perhaps travel abroad for a good concert?

– I like high quality music with serious and demanding performance but I am not that fanatic. However, I travel a lot around with my family but only as tourists who desire some relaxation.

– Do you like foreign tastes?

– As for gastronomy, my wife prepares better lasagne and tiramisu than they do in Italy, so I usually say since Michelangelo’s death nothing has really happened in Italy... (that is good).’

Belics Krisztina

