

# Predicting treatment results with video imaging systems

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As we become comfortable with computers, the use of video imaging is finding its way into an increasing number of orthodontic offices. Most clinicians agree video imaging brings three major benefits to a practice: it improves communication and education; enhances record storage and retrieval; and is another tool in diagnosis and treatment planning.

After spending a couple of years working with a popular video imaging program, I now present records to all patients on a computer screen, making the complexities of growth and anticipated treatment change much easier to explain. During the consultation, all parties look at the same images with understanding that I used to dream of. Patients and parents are not the only ones to benefit from the improved communications. The advantages extend to all printed documents that leave the office. For the first time in my 30 years of practice, people read my letters because they now have pictures to match.

The storage and retrieval of orthodontic records is perhaps one of the most underrated advantages of computerization. The records of special cases for use in educating patients are readily available. Because I can carry the records of 500 cases in my laptop computer, lunch with a neighboring dentist takes on new meaning. A regular schedule of backing up computer files allows me to sleep better at night, knowing that I've got a copy of everything in case of theft or fire. But what about the last advantage mentioned—the potential to use the computer and video imag-

ing software as a tool in diagnosis and treatment planning. The bottom line: is it accurate?

To help answer this question we have included several excellent papers on video imaging in this issue of *The Angle Orthodontist*. Three of the papers are from the University of Southern California, where Dr. Peter Sinclair has mobilized a talented group of oral surgeons, orthodontic clinicians, and students to study three different software programs. The first two papers look at computer-predicted soft tissue changes following mandibular advancement surgery and maxillary impaction surgery. The third paper is bolder, taking a look at the prediction of soft tissue outcome of growth modification treatment for Class II problems in mixed dentition and adolescent patients.

In another paper, Hall and Bollen compare sonically derived measurements with more traditional cephalometric values. These data become more important as clinicians seek to reduce patient exposure to radiation.

Leading things off is a paper by Ackerman and Proffit, "Soft tissue limitations in orthodontics: Treatment planning guidelines." These authors stress the need for soft tissue assessment guidelines, with particular emphasis on facial esthetics. Through the use of video imaging, a contemporary philosophy of orthodontic practice is offered, with general indications and contraindications for nonextraction, extraction, and surgical treatment.

Enjoy reading!

## Letters

### Journal Citation Report

Congratulations on the excellent performance of *The Angle Orthodontist* in the Journal Citation Report. Your hard work and dedication has certainly been well recognized over the past few years with the awards you have received as an editor, and now with the Angle Orthodontist rated as one of the best orthodontic journals in the world. Well done! I am very proud of your accomplishments. I told my residents just last week that the Angle Orthodontist is the best orthodontic journal, and now that has been validated scientifically. Congratulations and keep up the good work.

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No question *The Angle Orthodontist* has made significant impact on the orthodontic community under your leadership. This happened even before I started reviewing manuscripts for the journal, so I cannot claim any credit! Congratulations on your accomplishments. I look forward to continuing to serve the journal.

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Kudos to the entire staff at *The Angle Orthodontist*. Now that we all know you are marching toward the top, let's keep up the momentum and make the journal better still. I take a lot of pride in being a small part of this great organization. If my colleagues or I here at NYU can be of any help, please call on us and we'll do our very best.

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It was a great pleasure to read your editorial about the Journal Citation Reports. *The Angle Orthodontist* has certainly reached a very high ranking among all the dental journals. It's good news for the members of the Angle Society as well as the orthodontic profession at large.

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