

EP. 21 How Hand-held Tablets Can Increase Efficiency

We are in a new era of technology and now we have all kinds of resources in our hands! Today we are going to talk about how hand-held tablets can improve efficiency in the office and increase treatment acceptance.

When I started practicing there was no such thing as an iPad. We used flip charts and tooth models, which are still good chairside tools, and everything was done on paper. Now with the edition of hand-held tablets we can educate in more ways and even make things easier on ourselves.

Did you know that 65% of people are visual learners? That means when we are educating our patients on recommended treatment we really need to incorporate visual aids.

Hand-held tablets have proven to not only increase communication with your patient, but increase efficiency in the practice as well. They can make your job easier! Let's go through several ways you can use a hand-held tablet in your office.

1. Treatment Plan Education – you can have a library of treatment animation for patient education. There are a ton of apps out there that you can use to play videos and illustrate the effects of conditions, such as periodontal disease and decay, over time. Some even allow you to draw directly on the screen with your fingers, add images, even create, send and print individual treatment plans. You can even use some apps to display images that you can share with patient or even share with referring doctors.

2. Paperless Solutions – You can allow your patients to fill out their medical/dental history and sign consent forms chairside. This will also move treatment along much quicker!

3. Treatment Plan Follow-up – You can utilize apps that allow for a video treatment plan to be emailed to the patient.

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4. Staff tools – there are apps that allow dentists and staff to look up procedure codes when the manual isn't handy. There are also apps that have a complete resource library, such as drug information and effects, laboratory and diagnostic procedure information, and natural product information.

5. Scheduling an appointment – apps allow patients to schedule appointments, access pre and post-operation information, even refer other patients to you!

If you aren't using these devices in your practice, then you are really missing out on a huge opportunity to be more efficient and increase treatment acceptance. I encourage you to check it out!