

Effective Case Documentation:

Recommendations for the Orthodontic Patient

Thorough case documentation is an important part of your future dental practice. It is essential for patient records as well as communicating with specialists involved in the case. Following here is a helpful technique guide, courtesy of Shofu Dental Corporation, to assist you in capturing the high-quality photos necessary to evaluate, treatment plan, and care for your orthodontic patients.



Facial Images: Use a blue, gray, black or brown background. Have the patient stand 1 foot away from background with hands at their sides. Long hair should be pulled back or tucked behind ears.

Full Face Repose, Smile & Profile Shots: Ideal distance is 66.9 in (approximately 5 ½ feet) back from subject.

HINT: Use the interpupillary line and long axis of the face to align the camera. Camera angle should be at the same level as the patient's nose.



Anterior Images: Patient is seated knee to knee facing the assistant. Both patient's and photographer's chair are the same level, allowing the photo lens to be parallel.

Anterior Smile & Retracted Shots: Ideal distance is 9.4 in back from the subject.

HINT: Use buccal retractors without mirror for retracted shots. Focus on the central teeth.

BUCCAL IMAGES



Buccal Images: Same seating position - knee to knee with patient. Have the patient place retractors, pulling further back the retractor side you are capturing.

Left & Right Buccal Shots: Distance/range should be the same as above (9.4 in). Ideal distance is 9.4 in back from the subject.

HINT: Upper and lower teeth should be together. Focus on the cuspids (left and right) should be in the center of the frame.

OCCUSAL IMAGES



Occlusal Images: Try not to leave any teeth out of the photo – the wider the patient opens, the more teeth will be in the frame. Keep nose out of the picture. Keep mirror warm to avoid fogging.

Upper & Lower Occlusal Shots: Choose the appropriate distance/range – Ideal distance is 11.8 in back from the subject.

HINT: Place retractors and mirror then stand behind the patient and lower the chair to waist level. Ask the patient to lift their head as high as they can, again encourage them to open wide. The full arch mirror should rest flat against the opposing teeth.

Technique Guide courtesy of

EyeSpecial C-III

Smart, Digital Camera,
Designed Exclusively for Dentistry



Your smartphone is not appropriate for case documentation!

For effective case documentation, be sure to use a digital camera designed for the clinical environment.