The Best Camera Is the One Your Team Will Actually Use

Jennifer Bell, DDS, on Shofu Dental Corporation's EyeSpecial



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KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Ease of use encourages consistent clinical photography by allowing any team member to capture high-quality images without extensive photography training.
2. Dental-specific presets simplify image capture while supporting appropriate focus, lighting, and color saturation for clinical documentation, communication, and treatment planning.
3. Isolate Shade Mode minimizes the visual influence of surrounding gingival tissues, helping clinicians evaluate tooth value and brightness for shade selection and laboratory communication.
4. Water- and chemical-resistant construction supports infection-control protocols and helps integrate the camera into everyday clinical workflows.

MANUFACTURER INFORMATION

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I have always believed in the value of clinical photography. The challenge has never been convincing me that we should take photographs—it has been making photography easy enough that it actually happens consistently.

For many practices, that has traditionally meant a DSLR or mirrorless camera with a macro lens and flash system. The image quality can be exceptional, but there is a catch: someone has to know how to use it. Hand that setup to a team member without photography training and watch the hesitation. Aperture, shutter speed, ISO, flash settings, focus—it can be intimidating. Even doctors often need significant training before becoming truly proficient.

That is what I appreciate most about the Shofu EyeSpecial: it removes much of that friction. Designed specifically for dentistry, the EyeSpecial includes presets for the types of images we capture every day. Instead of teaching every team member photography theory, I can hand them the camera, select the appropriate setting, and reasonably expect to get the clinical image I need.

And ease of use does not mean sacrificing image quality. The before-and-after images shown here demonstrate the camera's ability to capture both pink and white esthetics with appropriate focus, lighting, and color saturation. For me, this is the sweet spot: a camera approachable enough for the entire team while still producing high-quality images for documentation, communication, and treatment planning.

Another feature I find particularly valuable is the Isolate Shade Mode. By minimizing the visual influence of the surrounding gingival tissues, the mode allows us to more clearly evaluate the value and brightness of the tooth and shade tab. This can be especially helpful when communicating shade information with the laboratory or evaluating restorative outcomes.

There is another practical benefit: infection control. The EyeSpecial can be disinfected with products we already use in the operatory.

A technically perfect photograph that never gets taken has no clinical value. I would much rather have consistent, quality photographs throughout my patient records than an incredible camera sitting unused because only one person is comfortable operating it.

Clinical photography shouldn't belong only to the team member who took a course. Assistants, hygienists, and doctors should all be able to capture the images we need. When technology removes barriers instead of creating them, adoption follows. The best camera is the one your entire team is comfortable using.


FIG. 1


FIG. 2


FIG. 3

(1. AND 2.) Before and after photos highlighting balance of focus on pink and white tissue.

(3.) Isolate shade mode enhancing shade selection for cases.