

ENDO TIMES

CBCT: A WHOLE NEW PERSPECTIVE



Image 1: Traditional PA

Image 2: Sagittal View

Image 3: Coronal View

Tooth #19: Visualization of internal resorption on a traditional PA vs. CBCT image

CBCT IMAGING: A WHOLE NEW PERSPECTIVE

The field of dentistry is always changing with new improvements in materials and technology. One of the most valuable advances in the field of endodontics in the last decade is the cone beam computed tomography (CBCT). As we all have learned in our dental school days, a good periapical radiograph is important in proper diagnosis. Many times, however, the PA has limited diagnostic ability due to “anatomical noise” from superimposed structures such as the maxillary sinus, mental foramen, thick cortical plate, etc. The CBCT image gives a whole new perspective by allowing a three-dimensional view.

A good example of the difference in a PA image vs CBCT image is shown above on tooth #19. A patient came to our office and had been having on/off discomfort for several months. Clinical testing results were as follows:

Tooth #19: Cold: NR, Percussion: + slight, Palpation: + slight buccal, Probing: WNL
After evaluating the traditional PA and clinical testing, the diagnosis was determined to be: #19: Pulpal Necrosis, Symptomatic Apical Periodontitis. After evaluating the CBCT image, an area of inflammatory internal resorption was noted in the MB canal. We were able to determine the exact location and size of the resorptive lesion and give the patient a good prognosis for treatment. This is just one example of a case where the CBCT image made a significant difference in diagnosis and treatment.

At our practice, we use the VATECH Green CT machine – an ultra low dose machine with very accurate and high quality diagnostic images. It has been a significant addition to our practice and a very valuable asset in providing treatment to patients!

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