

Digital Dentistry Letter to the Editor (LTE) Introduction and Template

(Sources: ACP Position on Digital Dentistry, Dr. Stephen Campbell interview, Dr. Youssef Obeid, Dr. Jean C. Wu, approved by 2014 ACP Public Relations Committee on 10/15/2014 and Dr. Campbell on 1/13/2015).

**Members: copy, paste, and customize the introduction and template below into the body of an email (not attachments) and submit to your local newspaper. Editors do call to verify facts so include contact information for you. Use your own letterhead.*

Dear Editor:

For your consideration is a letter to the editor below about how digital dentistry helps patients.

Thank you for your consideration,

(Name, Credentials)

Prosthodontist

(Address)

(City, State)

(Phone, Email) * the editor may contact you directly prior to publication.

Digital Dentistry: Prosthodontists Use It to Save Patients Time and Money

Dear Editor:

As a Prosthodontist, I get patient questions all the time asking about digital dentistry – what is it, how can it save patients time and money, and if the quality matches up to traditional procedures of getting a new crown or cap, and can a new tooth made in under an hour match the quality and esthetics of traditional production methods that used to take weeks to do?

The answer to all those questions is – YES. A Prosthodontist is a specialized dentist with 3-4 years of advanced training in the restoration of teeth and replacement of missing teeth. Prosthodontists provide care at the specialty level, working closely with other health care providers and oral health specialists. They diagnose, plan, rehabilitate and maintain oral function, comfort, and esthetics for patients with clinical conditions associated with missing, deficient or broken teeth using dental implants, digital based technologies, crowns, bridges, partials and dentures.

The additional years of study allows a Prosthodontist to thoroughly diagnose more complex cases and construct an appropriate treatment plan and sequence of care. Advanced technologies such as digital impressions, and CAD/CAM restorations can be used to restore teeth, with veneers or crowns, and replace missing teeth with dental implants or dentures.

The American College of Prosthodontists (ACP) supports improved patient caring through advancements in digital dentistry. In fact, while it may seem new to patients, Prosthodontists have been using digital dentistry technologies for more than a decade.

The ACP advises that as with all advancements, it's not simply the technology that determines the quality, the fit, the materials—it's the prosthodontist (or dentist) who applies their advanced specialty training to design and control the outcome. Many potential advantages exist when leveraging digital technology including: improved patient experiences such as shorter dental visits, less pain and discomfort, the ability for patients to see their new tooth be custom-made in less than two hours; and the ability to use stronger and more esthetically pleasing ceramic materials for crown fabrication that would otherwise not be available. This allows the Prosthodontist more control over the final outcome.

Whether the digital technology is applied through chair-side scanning, design and milling equipment, or through the utilization of digital laboratory based technologies, the Prosthodontist and trained practitioners are prepared to identify the best solution for the patient's specific situation and needs.

To find a Prosthodontist, visit GoToAPro.org and type in your zip code. Prosthodontics is a recognized specialty by the American Dental Association.

(Name, Credentials)

Prosthodontist

(City, State)