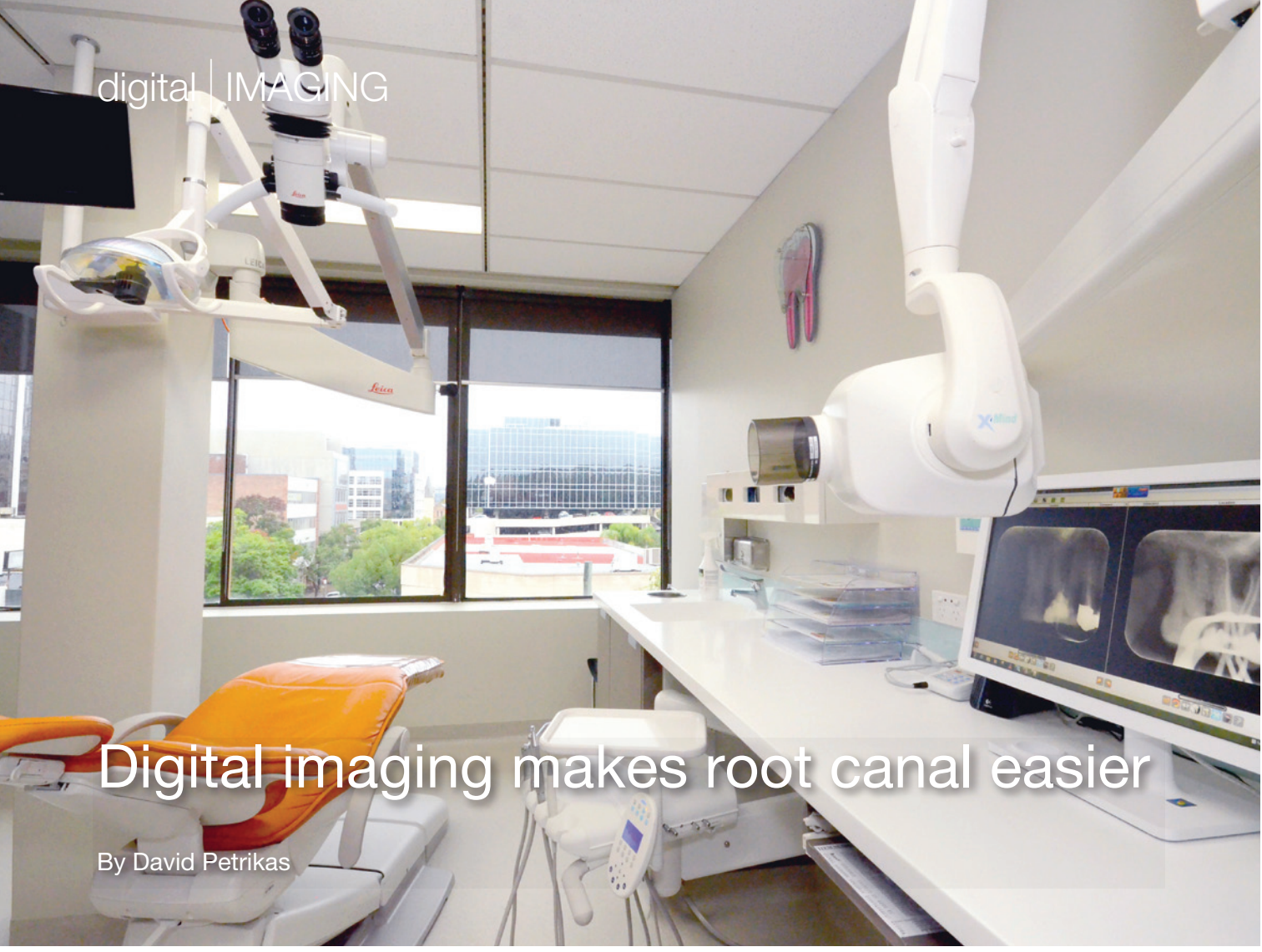

Digital imaging makes root canal easier

By David Petrikas

MODERN digital imaging systems have rapidly become an indispensible part of dental surgery - no more so than in the demanding field of endodontic and delicate root canal procedures.

An example of contemporary digital technology put to good use can be seen at Sydney-based practice, Gentle Endodontics, where endodontist, Dr Mehdi Rahimi is expanding his endodontic services to patients in western Sydney.

Dr Rahimi operates from a new bespoke practice on the edge of the Parramatta CBD and is also a partner in an established practice at Chatswood with prosthodontist, Ben Lee.

Dr Rahimi's Parramatta practice has been planned to the smallest detail to provide a relaxing place for patients and the best of everything in terms of layout, ergonomics and technology.

Both surgeries rely on digital imaging systems, with the new Gentle Endodontics clinic utilising an Acteon X-Mind X-ray generator and 'PSP!X' Phosphor Plate system, plus Sopro's 617 intraoral camera - all supplied by A-dec dealer, Critical Dental of Castle Hill.

The various components - wall-mounted X-Mind X-ray generator, Phosphor plate system and intraoral camera work together seamlessly as part of the Sopro Imaging system.

Dr Rahimi said the ergonomically-designed Sopro 617 intraoral camera which has a distinctive curved body design, was very easy to use and has a great macro function, which was ideal for root canal work.

"It integrates with the A-dec delivery system and also links with everything through the digital imaging software so the images can be displayed in the one place," Dr Rahimi said.

This level of integration of digital components meant patient records can include a full suite of camera and X-ray images and imported images (e-mailed by referring dentists) as well.

"The PSP!X unit works very well and produces quick images with very fine detail which is important as we need to do X-rays with every patient to see what we are dealing with."

The PSP!X unit is ideal for this task as it is a compact system which processes the image rapidly for display on a large landscape monitor on the bench alongside the dental unit.

Images can be viewed within moments of processing by both the endodontist and also shown to the patient to assist with treatment planning. The operator simply has to place the compact phosphor plate into the small PSP!X unit - which is located in an alcove just outside the sterilization room adjacent to the main surgery.

Dr Rahimi said the decision to go with a quality supplier such as A-dec with good dealer support was essential in providing the highest level of patient care.

"I always buy the best, you don't want something failing on you in the middle of a procedure when someone has been waiting a long time to get in and see a specialist and may already be anxious about the procedure.

"I'm very happy with Justin and Mike O'Connell at Critical Dental who supplied all the equipment, and I know I can call them if I have a problem and the guys there are very approachable."

A-dec Territory manager, Paul Riddel, who also assisted in the equipment selection, explained that by using the PSP!X plates, the X-Mind X-ray generator only needed to generate a fraction of the radiation required for conventional film X-ray to obtain outstanding radiographs.

"The X-Mind unit also has a self-diagnostic function so it can help trace any problems which might be encountered in other parts of the system, such as digital sensors, making trouble-shooting quick and easy if ever required.

"The PSP!X phosphor plate system is a very popular choice, as it is compact, fast and has an auto-load function and image preview on the PSP!X unit to provide instant verification of the X-ray image as soon as it is processed. That same image can then be viewed using Sopro Imaging software and displayed on multiple PCs and monitors within a practice.

"In that way, one PSP!X unit can be shared among several surgeries without additional licensing costs in a very cost- and space-efficient manner," Mr Riddel said.

More information on the entire range of Acteon and Sopro intraoral cameras, Sopix² digital sensors and PSP!X phosphor plate systems, contact your local A-dec dealer Australia-wide or call A-dec Australia on 1800-225-010.