

# PRACTICELIFE

## 'Cerec 27 and a half' in Las Vegas

**Nilesh Parmar recalls** his visit to Sin City, not to gamble, but to speak at the esteemed CEREC conference and show the Americans what the Brits can do...

My experience with Cerec started from a very early age. I was still in dental school when my father bought our first Cerec machine, a Cerec 2. I remember the both of us spending a Sunday afternoon trying to figure the machine out.

Now, this was back in the good ol' days when 3D graphics were not yet about; we had no 3D image of our prep which we could rotate and zoom in and out. Instead, I have a memory of a yellow line and a red dot that had to be lined up.

Needless to say, it was a 'work in progress' and, although the machine was capable of producing sound restorations, the operator had to have a lot of training and patience with the unit.

### Evolve and change

If we fast-forward a few years, the Cerec machines have developed and been evolving from version to version. It almost reminds me of the way Porsche seem to continually evolve their 911 sports cars. I have been involved with Cerec for over 10 years and currently have two Cerec AC Blu Cam machines in my dental practice. Every time I turn the unit on, I find myself still learning new things.

There has always been a question mark over the margins, and just how good the restorations produced are. Well, as with all things, it is not the machine that determines how good the restorations are, it is the operator – the person using it. If a dentist buys a Cerec machine in the belief he/she can start producing lab level quality restorations, then

they can forget it. You can't. You need training and you need time, patience and clinical skill. The Americans have

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heavily invested into Cerec technology. The system is huge over there and I was fortunate enough to attend the largest Cerec conference on the planet – 'Cerec 27 and a half'

### Doing it differently

Not only was I asked to attend by Sirona UK, I was asked to present a lecture on CBCT and Cerec integration. As far as I could tell, I was the only Brit amidst a sea of American speakers. I have heard a lot of positive things about American conferences; I was told that they do it 'differently' compared to us in the UK. The truth is, the Americans like a bit of theatre to their presentations and their product launches. I wasn't prepared for what I had in store.

The conference was in the Venetian Hotel and resort in Las Vegas, and the stage was huge! The audio/video projectors were amazing; it was more like an Apple product launch stage than a dental lecture stage. On day one, there was a buzz that something special was going on, and we weren't left disappointed. Sirona launched their new Cerec system, the OmniCam, to a massive, almost devout crowd. The American dentists were shouting, clapping, punching the air, and were generally blown over by the announcement.

### New technology

The new OmniCam is a sophisticated piece of kit, Sirona have managed to get rid of the need to powder the teeth in order to get an image. Instead, what is effectively, a very hi-tech intra-oral camera, scans the teeth in, and reproduces tooth, soft tissue, dentine, enamel etc. all in HD colour! How they managed this, I have no idea! The camera will even work in the presence of saliva! It really is a game changer (I am speaking like the Americans now!) It's a long way from the yellow line, red dot days of the Cerec of old!

### Just as good


On a personal note, lecturing in America wasn't something I would have ever thought I would be asked to do. I was a bit worried as the Americans have a reputation to be ahead of the curve compared to us over here in the UK. I remember speaking to one Professor of Periodontology a few years ago who told me that British dentistry is in the stone-age compared to them and he blamed the NHS. Rather harsh I thought, so it was with this in my head, I decided to put together a presentation of my best ever cases, the ones which I could use to really impress the Americans and show them that us Brits can provide work which equals or even exceeds what they can do!

I wasn't wrong. Despite the Americans showcasing lovely, aesthetic cases, I feel that there is comparative work being done right here in the UK. So, it was with a feeling of pride that I left America, to come back to the UK, knowing that what we do over here, is just as good as the dentistry being carried out everywhere else in the world. **JD**



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