Extraoral Photography Protocol for Virtual Smile Design.

Objective.

The photographs used for Virtual Smile Design must correspond to the exact same clinical condition represented in the digital records (intraoral scans) submitted to the planning center.

Image-to-scan alignment requires common anatomical reference points between the photographs and the digital scans. For this reason, capture photographs and scans at the same clinical stage.

Examples:

- If photographs of the provisional restorations are submitted, a scan of the provisional restorations must also be provided.
- If preoperative photographs are submitted, the corresponding preoperative scans must also be provided.

Without common reference points, accurate alignment may be impossible, and smile design quality may be compromised.

Please do not use old photographs. The picture must be taken on the same day as your IOS (intra-oral scans).

Required Photographs.

1. Full-Face Smile Photograph.

- Frontal view.
- The lower lip should be separated from the incisal edges and cusp tips to allow visualization of key anatomical landmarks used during the alignment process.

2. Full-Face Retracted Photograph.

- Full face visible.
- Allows correlation of the dental position with the patient's facial references.

3. Profile Photographs (Recommended)

Particularly important for full-arch rehabilitation cases (All-on-X and complete dentures), as they help evaluate lip support and facial profile.

Photography Guidelines.

Camera Position.

- The patient and operator should be positioned at the same eye level.
- The camera should capture the image perpendicular to the patient's face.

Avoid:

- Photographs taken from below upward, as they may exaggerate tooth display.
- Photographs taken from above downward, as they may reduce apparent tooth display and compromise analysis.

Patient Position.

- Confirm that both ears are visible in a similar proportion.
- This helps ensure that the patient is looking straight ahead and allows for a more accurate evaluation of the facial midline.

Final Consideration.

The accuracy of the Virtual Smile Design depends directly on the correlation between the photographs and the digital scans provided. Before submitting a case, please verify that both records represent the same clinical situation.

NOTE: The two most important photographs for smile design are:

1. Full-face smile photograph.
2. Full-face retracted photograph.





* For a more comprehensive photographic protocol, please refer to the attached images for guidance.

