The Clip Mirror: Increasing productivity and easing daily physical stressors

An interview with dental hygienist Patricia Blundon, Canada

The Clip Mirror idea came to me about ten years into my career. I was working on a patient with a super strong lower lip and a protruding tongue. With a scaler in one hand and mirror in the other and the patient’s tongue pushing out the saliva ejector, I thought to myself, “Why does this need to be so hard?” I thought about having a mirror clip directly on to the saliva ejector to free up a hand and wondered why no one had invented this. Then I thought to myself, “Who better to invent a dental tool than a dental hygienist?”

When designing the Clip Mirror, what did you pay attention to? I knew the design I wanted and I visited a multitude of hardware stores to see what clips were available. The steel for the clip had to be medical grade and 400 series so that it would not rust or corrode with sterilization, and the clip itself was designed to snap securely to the saliva ejector while still allowing rotation if needed. I designed the rolled clip ends so one can feed a line of floss through and attach the Clip Mirror to the saliva ejector using sterile tape as an added precaution in hospital settings or compromised patients. I chose the brighter size 5 titanium mirror, as the standard rhodium mirror does not have enough light or reflectivity in comparison, and then decided to encourage dental care providers to try various products to find what works best for them to help maintain proper posture, as we all know dentistry can take a huge toll on one’s body.

What has user feedback been so far? Feedback on the Clip Mirror has been great, and for those who have struggled in the past, like I have, with no help from a dental nurse or assistant, it has been a great body and time saver. Many report finding it very helpful when they have a patient who cannot recline and need to scale the maxillary lingual surface. I have received some feedback requesting a smaller mirror size for use with patients with a narrower or smaller arch and will be introducing the Clip Mirror MINI in the near future.

How has the success of the Clip Mirror been globally? I decided to introduce the Clip Mirror to the US after years of market research and positive feedback from my Canadian customers. I have had customer interest from Australia, Ireland and the UK and would love to team up with a partner to serve these markets and many others. Dentistry is worldwide, so the sky is the limit.

Thank you very much for the interview.