

PROS & CONS of Dental Monitoring

PRO'S of 3-D Braces Dental Monitoring:

It helps the orthodontist to know between appointments whether the planned treatment is progressing well or if it isn't, whether it is due to poor cooperation, damaged appliances, or physical anomalies, this is especially important when their next scheduled appointment is many weeks away.

Having the graphs and charts generated by the alerts are helpful to the to control the case. And they will also help the doctor learn how well his/her Tx Mechanotherapy works, thus allowing them to learn how to more accurately Dx and Tx plan future cases, causing fewer alerts.

There *may* be "shorter Tx times" once the orthodontist better understands how to best apply his/her Tx Mechanotherapy.

Using the "smart phone" to monitor Tx is a good idea since it is an appendage of today's patients.

CON'S of 3-D Braces Dental Monitoring:

Unfortunately, uncooperative patients (5-15% of all starts) who really need to take the photos, most probably won't take them and thus circumvent a primary reason for dental monitoring. You need to determine and use the kind of motivation the patient needs to take the photos; probably that *patient's chief concern* for orthodontic treatment (usually emotional).

Smart phone's instant texting are what make them popular, but an immediate response is also expected and may cause a loss of motivation if they don't get one. Thus, they must be made aware of the timing of their pictures and any response from the doctor. Hopefully, the computer automatically sends a phone text for every set of pictures taken, thanking them for their help and stating that all seems well, but if not, they will get a response from their orthodontist. Also, if done, immediately informing the patient that there is a problem is not a good idea. The doctor will probably not respond to the alert for a few days. It is unrealistic to expect a doctor to be ever vigil in answering alerts...it will drive him/her crazy and ruin their private lives.

The orthodontist may not have enough time to address *many* alerts. Most orthodontists are very busy and barely have enough time to Dx and Tx their cases, much less add many hours a week for pre-Tx, continuing Tx and post-Tx monitoring. I would suggest a DA, RT or TC be used to address these alerts, bring the critical ones to the attention of the orthodontist and schedule a patient visit immediately if warranted. If only 5-10% of a typical 60 patients/day are off their Tx plan, the doctor will have 3-5 patients alerts/day to deal with.

The claim that there *will* be "shorter Tx times" in every case (implied on the website) is not realistic. The best you can hope for is that the realistic Tx plan time is *met*, you avoided a run-on case and that you better understand the limits of your Tx Mechanotherapy.

PRO'S of GoLive (Aligner-Tx) Dental Monitoring:

Same as 3-D monitoring above, but it is about half the price of braces monitoring.

CON'S of GoLive (Aligner-Tx) Dental Monitoring:

Same as 3-D monitoring above, but will add about \$100 to \$200 to your Tx fee.