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New technology in dental care gives patients close-up of state of their teeth

By RENA GALANIS
Advertising Features

Dental care is now incorporating advances in video technology for progressive examinations which allow both dentists and patients to get a close-up look at the condition of their teeth.

About five per cent of modern dental offices have invested in this new piece of technology in which a miniature video camera on a small wand magnifies teeth and gums and dis-

plays them on a TV screen.

"This technology allows for more comprehensive diagnostic ability and is complementary to x-ray," says Dr. Ann Lawlor, a Markham dentist who has a practise with her husband, Ken, and has been using the system for about seven months. "Intra-oral video provides a 35 per cent magnification which allows us to get a clear image of the tiniest areas, frozen on a TV screen which we can then store and retrieve in the computer as needed."

The procedure is fast, painless and provides a "phenomenal" amount of information which was simply not possible with

examinations done with a mirror because the kind of visual acuity provided through intra-oral video is

just not possible through the naked eye, she adds.

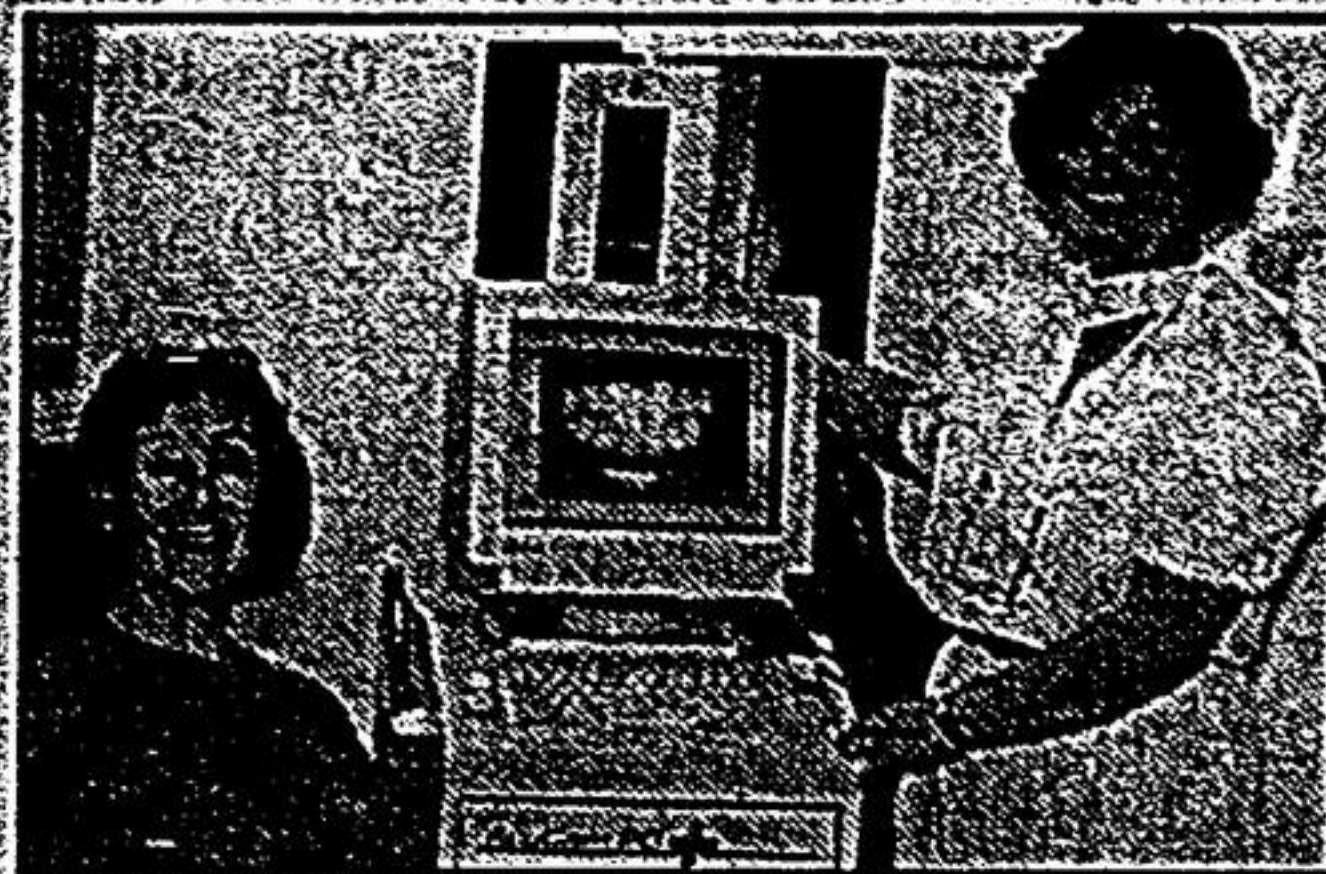
Cracks in teeth, spots of decay and condition of fillings are more easily assessed with intra-oral video and children "just love it."

"It's a real benefit to patients of all ages," Dr. Lawlor continues.

In addition, patients get a larger than life view of their teeth and can make better decisions regarding their dental care. Patients can even ask for printed snapshots of the video images.

Both patients and dentists get a close-up view of teeth with use of intra-oral video which magnifies up to 35 per cent.

For more information call Dr. Lawlor at 475-7600.



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RESTRUCTURING ACUTE HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN YORK REGION



Fundamental Changes Proposed after Acute Care Study

A York Region District Health Council (DHC) committee of consumers and health providers has just completed an 18-month study of acute health care services (hospitals, physicians, in-home services) in York Region. Earlier this week, it released a plan for restructuring services. The Committee concluded that the status quo could not be maintained as a result of significant pressures influencing the current system. These include severe funding inequities, unprecedented growth, gaps in some services and duplication in others, fragmentation causing lack of coordination and continuity of care, access difficulties and incentives that are not necessarily aligned with maintaining good health.

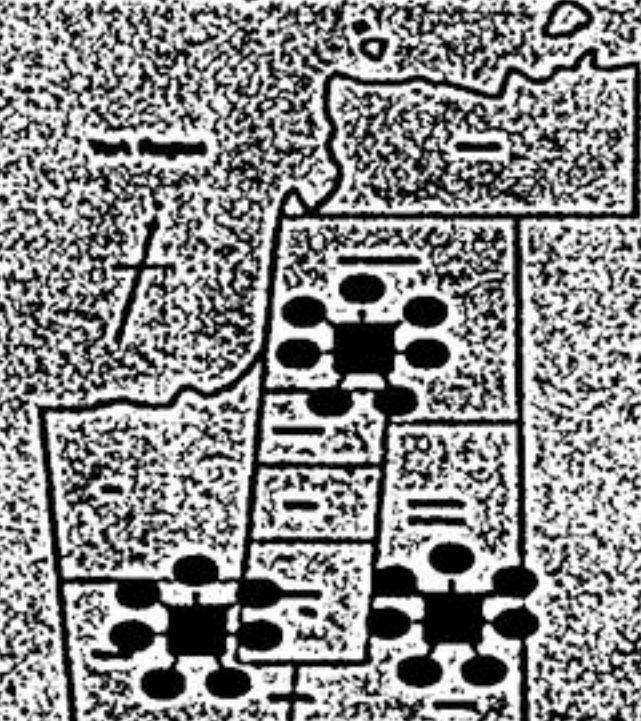
Proposed Plan

Overall structure

Central to the Committee's proposal is a restructuring of services into three "vertically integrated systems" (VIS) - one in the southwest, one in the southeast and one in the north. A VIS is a network of providers, linked under voluntary community board,

offering a range of services along a continuum of care to a defined population. The VIS would provide or purchase public health programs, family care, hospital and specialist care, emergency care, in-home services, drug benefits and laboratory services.

3 Vertically Integrated Delivery Networks



Features

Services would be organized on a program basis -- Women's Health, Child/Adolescent Health and Cancer Care for example to ensure effective communication, coordination and a consistent approach to care. The Committee also proposed a number of new and enhanced programs, many of these for children. Physician payment incentives, funding and patient care management would undergo changes. The focus of the system would shift from an illness model to a prevention/health maintenance model.

A number of options exist for how the target populations will be defined, exactly which services will be provided, how physicians will be paid, etc. These will be determined in the Implementation Phase if approved by the Ministry of Health.

Benefits to Consumers and other Advantages

Consumer choice would be maintained as a key feature of the new system. Consumers should be able to expect better coordination for the different aspects of their care such as information gathering, screening, testing, treatment and follow-up. Situations where clients "fall through the cracks" when moving from one level of care to another or where clients are forced to negotiate a maze of unfamiliar services would be reduced. Other advantages include: less gaps in service, cost efficiency through streamlined administration, less duplication of testing, information, etc. and using the most appropriate setting and provider to meet the needs; and more equitable funding for York Region as funding is aligned with population growth.

Implementation

A DHC steering committee will oversee the aspects of the plan common to all 3 systems. After that, each system is expected to evolve in its own way, at its own rate. Full implementation will likely take several years.

Investment Needed

The committee is proposing several measures to increase the system's capacity, maximize resources and minimize the new investment (or reallocation from over-funded regions) needed to accommodate population growth. More than \$12 million in savings are projected by 1998.

Despite these measures, there will be a need for approximately \$30-40 million (operating) by 1998 in additional resources for the region due to high growth. In addition, \$70 million, two-thirds of which has been committed by the ministry, will be allocated in October for capital redevelopment.

Next Step - Public Consultation

Written and verbal comments about the plan are welcomed and encouraged. Contact the York Region DHC at (905) 830-9899 or (416) 363-5288; Fax (905) 830-9903. Four Open Houses are scheduled for the public to obtain more information on the plan and provide feedback. Also, a summary newsletter, entitled *Step By Step*, is available at local libraries.

Open Houses (2 - 7 p.m.)

Keswick	Oct. 5	Stephen Leacock Centre 130 Gwendolyn Blvd. (Off Queensway north)
Unionville	Oct. 17	Maliken Mills Community Centre 7600 Kennedy Road (south of Hwy. #7)
Newmarket	Oct. 18	York Region District Health Council Suite 300, 1091 Gofham Street (corner Leslie)
Thornhill	Oct. 19	Bathurst Clark Public Library 900 Clark Ave. West (behind the Promenade)