

Dr. Hale on the Apixia/Metron Digital Dental Package

I have had Scan X systems since 2006 and have been very happy with them. That said, having seen the new Apixia system, it is much better in important ways.

-smaller footprint (takes less space on the counter)

-with the Metron software Bob has arranged, the processing speed is much faster than the Scan X

-is new technology with at the beginning of its useful life (not an old system that has some questions looming about its future).

When Bob first brought an Apixia machine for me to look at, there were some issues. Both Bob and I were very impressed with the speed with which Apixia and Metron were able to resolve those issues. Of course, with a new system and trying to marry software from one company with hardware from another, each change revealed new issues. Each time these were resolved and the system got better and better each time I saw it. I am now confident saying that if I were in the market and even if there were no questions about the future of Scan X, I would get the Apixia. The image quality is great and the processing speed is the best I have ever seen in a CR system. I used to say that a single-slot system would be a bottleneck and this is why I was adamant that the Scan X Duo was the way to go.

Apixia/Metron have a system that is so fast, the machine will be waiting for you to feed it the next plate rather than you waiting for it to process the previous one. Did Bob show you the little video we made of how quickly the system processes the large, size 4 sensor plate? If not, ask him to send it along.

I have had the Scan X systems for 16+ years. They came with their own software, which was okay. Then I had another program before finally getting Metron about 12 years ago. It is not perfect (no software is) but I have really liked it. And the customer support has been fantastic. Anytime I have had any issues, I call them up, they log in to my system remotely and get things sorted out in a flash. Very friendly, approachable, and efficient. A live person answers the phone and connects me directly to a support tech. Usually they have a fix right away, but if they don't, they have always been able to get one quickly.

As far as the question of CR vs DR, it is very simple. If you can only have one system, CR is absolutely the way to go. Have a look at this post for more on that - <https://vetdentedu.ca/2023/07/06/computed-radiography-is-best/>. Yes, the time from click to pic (time from when you hit the exposure button and see an image on your computer screen) is faster with DR but:

-for medium to large dogs and a size 2 DR sensor, you need way more images per patient which means far more radiation exposure and more time to get a whole-mouth study done

-for tiny patients, the thick, bulky, inflexible DR sensor will make it very hard to get good images of the caudal maxilla and mandible

So, I really think the choice is pretty clear. The Apixia/Metron system is the top option on the market currently in terms of image quality, easy/speed of use, footprint, and customer support.