

**Quick Reference  
Guide To Clinical Photography  
By Bill Blaker**

Consistency between pre-treatment and post-treatment photos is the most important factor. It's much better to have consistent photographs than it is to have good photographs. If you make bad photos, you need to make them bad in the same way. It does no good to have really great photos that are made differently between pre-treatment and post-treatment intervals.

**Tips for consistent photography:**

- Use a digital camera; use the best camera you can afford, preferably a professional quality SLR-type camera, with a high quality lens
- Use a flash (or multiple flashes) that is separate from your camera; For best lighting, use professional quality strobes with softbox attached
- Never use the flash built into your camera for clinical photography;
- Never use only ambient room lighting or sunlight;
- If using a single flash, mount it about 20-24 inches above the camera;
- If using multiple flashes, adjust the power so that one is brighter than the other, and mount them above, and to the sides of the camera;
- After you decide on your lighting, always use the same light(s) in the same way;
- If the room you're using has windows, cover them so that changes in ambient light don't affect your photos;
- Always use the same room – this way, light reflections off walls will be consistent;
- Place your camera, your light(s), and your subject at specific distances and angles from each other, and make notes or diagrams of your setup so that you can set it up the same way every time;
- The exact angle of light falling on your subject is very important to duplicate;
- Use manual camera settings for ISO, white balance, f-stop, and shutter speed;
- For faces, use a positioning table, such as those made by Faraghan Studios or Canfield Scientific; For non-facial areas, use a tripod or other solid mount for your camera;
- Pay close attention to how you position your subject, and always repeat the same exact position;
- Make a diagram of your set-up, with measured distances between camera, light(s), & subject. Using this diagram, you can re-create your set-up exactly at a later time;
- Place a small TV next to your set-up, and plug your digital camera into it. Use this to display your photos as you make them (your TV should have the AV plugs built into the front);
- Use a photo-quality printer to print out your pre-treatment photos;
- As you make your follow-up photos, hold a print-out of the pre-treatment photo next to the TV screen and compare as you go. Make sure the positions and expressions are the same, and re-take your photos, as necessary, until they are consistent;
- Make your photos reasonably high resolution (at least 3 megapixels, but not more than 6 megapixels). This gives you enough resolution to enlarge and make nice prints.
- Save your best images as TIF or PNG format once they're on your computer. This way, if you make any edits to them, you won't lose any image data.

**Camera Recommendations** – In order of my preference (for detailed reviews [www.dpreview.com](http://www.dpreview.com))

**Fuji S2 Pro** Professional quality SLR camera with very sharp CCD. Renders excellent color and dynamic range. Durable and easy to use. Built on the Nikon N80 body. Purchase your lenses separately. Priced around \$1800.

**Nikon D100** Professional quality SLR camera. Built on the Nikon N100 body. Durable, moderately easy to use. Renders very good images. Purchase your lenses separately. Priced around \$1500.

**Pentax \*ist D** Professional quality SLR camera. Uses same CCD as Nikon D100 (Sony chip). Durable, body is smallest SLR. Uses Pentax lenses.

**Canon EOS 10D** Professional quality SLR camera. Durable and easy to use. This camera uses a CMOS sensor, which is a tiny bit less sharp than a good CCD; but it's still an excellent camera. Priced around \$1400.

**Contax N Digital** Prof quality SLR camera. Very good, expensive – \$7000. Uses Contax lenses (Zeiss glass).

**Minolta Dimage 7hi or A1** High-end consumer-level camera. Built-in lens. One of best non-pro cameras. Renders very good images. Both models use same lens & CCD, A1 has extra features for action photography (not necessary for clinical work). Priced around \$900

**Nikon Coolpix 5700** High-end consumer-level camera. Built-in lens. Durable & easy to use. Priced \$750

**Fuji S7000** High-end consumer-level camera. Built-in lens. Durable and easy to use. Priced around \$650.

**Olympus E-20** High-end consumer-level camera. Built-in lens. Priced around \$1700

**Leica Digilux 2** High-end consumer-level camera. Built-in lens. Very new on the market and hard to find. I don't know anyone who's tried one, but, being a Leica, I'm sure it's good, and very expensive

**PROPER PATIENT POSITIONING FOR PHOTOGRAPHY**

**Before making any photographs:**

1. Place patient in chair,
2. Have patient place chin into chin cup
3. Stand at the patient's side, and examine patient's face for forward or rearward tilt.

Imagine a line, touching the front of the patient's forehead, and the front of the patient's chin.

If this line is vertical, then the patient's chair is the correct height.

If patient's face is tilted forward, the chair is too high

If the patient's face is tilted rearward, the chair is too low.

4. Make adjustments to chair until the patient's face appears vertical

**Making Front View Photographs**

Look through the camera viewfinder.

Patient's face should not be tilted to either side, or rotated to either side.

See figure 1

**Making ¾ View Photographs**

For each ¾ view, patient must move their chair to one side, to their left for Right ¾ view, and to their right for the left ¾ view. In this way, they can rotate their entire body to the ¾ direction. They should NOT rotate only the head.

See figure 2 and figure 3

**Making Profile View Photographs**

Patient should move their chair away from the camera, so that there is enough room to turn completely sideways to the camera without having their shoulder hit the photo table.

Face should be vertical.

See figure 4 and figure 5

**Figure 1**

**Figure 2**

**Figure 4**



Figure 1

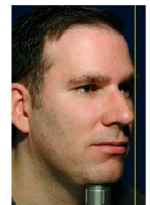


Figure 2

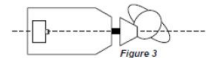


Figure 3



Figure 4

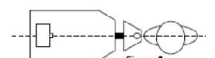


Figure 5