

# Business

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## Amherst dentist uses new technology in dental procedures for patients

by KATE MOCKLER  
Reporter

The area around the Buffalo Airport has long been known for being on the cutting edge of technological innovation. Evolution Dentistry is carrying on that tradition with the only independently operated cone beam CT scanner in the area.

The cone beam CT scanner, known under the brand name Iluma, is a digital 3D imaging machine. Unlike conventional medical CT scanners, which can examine soft tissues, the cone beam machine will scan only bone. This is all that's necessary for dental work, and it exposes the patient to less than a quarter of the radiation a medical CT scanner uses.

Dr. Benjamin Oppenheimer, an Amherst dentist, has lectured widely on dental implant technology and the use of digital imaging in dental procedures. When Evolution Dental Labs decided to bring cone beam CT scanner technology to the area, it hired Dr. Oppenheimer to operate the machine as a consultant.

Dentists from throughout Western New York refer their patients



Dr. Benjamin Oppenheimer with the Iluma Cone Beam CT Scanner at Evolution Dental Labs.

Photo by Kate Mockler

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to Evolution Dental, which also makes crowns, implants and dentures. Patients come for the digital scans before receiving dental implants, orthodontic treatments or oral surgery. Unlike the traditional two-dimensional X-ray, the cone beam CT scanner allows dentists to see the jaw and mouth

in cross-sections.

"It's a 3D representation of a 3D patient," Dr. Oppenheimer explained.

The procedure itself is fast and painless. The patient is seated and rests his or her chin on a chinrest. In less than a minute, the scan is complete. The dentist

who ordered the scan will get the digital information, packaged with the software so there are no computer compatibility issues, and will be able to formulate a treatment plan.

"Dentists can perform virtual surgery before they perform actual surgery," said Oppenheimer. This allows for an increased degree of safety and also makes dental procedures less painful.

Evolution Dental Labs has operated the cone beam CT scanner for a little more than one year. It has attracted the attention of many dentists throughout the area.

"It's been very well-received," said Oppenheimer. "A number of local dentists have made it part of their practice, but we have the capacity to service more." He added that because of the ease of use, the machine could serve up to 40 or 50 patients per day.

For more information about cone beam CT technology and Evolution Dental Labs, visit the Web site at [www.dentaltechlab.com](http://www.dentaltechlab.com). Dr. Benjamin Oppenheimer has a private dental practice at 2000 Eggert Road in Amherst. He can be reached there at 418-7272.