# Dentistry



# APPLICATION-



Photo of a Tooth (left) and OCT Profile Scan (right) Along the Region of Interest (ROI) Depicted in the Photograph\*

The ease of use and non-invasive nature of OCT has led to various applications in dentistry, including but not limited to:

- Diagnosis, Restoration, and Monitoring of Various Lesions and Defects<sup>1-6</sup>
- Assessment of Restorations and Restoration Imperfections<sup>7-8</sup>
- Examination of Gingiva<sup>9</sup>

# QUICK FACTS

- Thorlabs OCT systems are not medical equipment.
- OCT uses infrared light with very low intensities (laser class 1M).
- Long wavelengths such as 1300 nm penetrate up to 2.5 mm into teeth.
- In vivo imaging is possible.
- OCT can image into teeth, gum, and some cavity fillings and crowns.
- The Speckle Variance mode highlights blood vessels in gum (included in the software).
- Degree of Polarization Uniformity (DOPU) OCT reduces strong reflections and may also give additional information.

## TYPICAL SETUP -



PUBLICATIONS-

In a typical setup, the tooth is placed under the scanner. A line (for profiles) or an area (for volumes) is drawn and subsequently scanned.

A translation stage may be used to locate areas of interest during a live scan.



The red line in this image represents the region observed in the Example Images section.\*

## EXAMPLE IMAGES -



Above: OCT intensity (top), retardation (center), and DOPU (bottom) of a tooth with carious lesions. The DOPU is noticeably lower at the carious lesion.\*







50 months

Above: Within 50 months a gap forms between composite (C) and dentin (D). The enamel (E) and enamel-dentin function (EDJ) are also labeled.

Left: Carious lesions (L) can be detected at the surface (top) and under healthy enamel (E).\*



# RECOMMENDED ITEMS



### Choice of OCT System:

- TEL221C1(/M): For High-Resolution Imaging
- VEG210C1(/M): For Deep Imaging
- TEL221PSC1(/M)\*\*: For Polarization-Sensitive Imaging

#### **Useful Accessories:**

Larger Depth of Focus (for Telesto systems): OCT-LK4
& OCT-RA4

\*\*Resolution and depth of the TEL221PSC1(/M) are the same as for the TEL221C1(/M).

Interested? Email OCT@thorlabs.com for more information.

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