

[PECOS](#)[MAGAZINE](#) ▼[O&P JOBS](#) ▼[EDGE ADVANTAGE](#) ▼[O&P FACILITIES](#)[RESOURCES](#) ▼

Ten Tips to Take an Effective 3D Scan for Spinal Bracing

by **David Collins** — March 1, 2024 in **Postscript**

We often say technology makes life easier, but making the transition to a new way of doing something can be met with anxiety. When it comes to patient care and streamlining the bracing process, we believe that 3D digital scanning technology is the answer. It can create much more precise models and measurements of your patients and eliminate the costs and time required for shipping casts to a central fabricator. It allows you to measure, scan, and send your order in a matter of minutes. Not only is it less stressful for your patient, but it makes the whole process of measuring for a spinal orthosis much simpler. Learning how to effectively scan your patient will ultimately save you time and money.

The following scanning tips will put both patient and practitioner at ease.

1. Be familiar with your scanner. Set up your 3D scanner with your tablet or phone ahead of the patient visit and do a few test runs on friends or colleagues.
2. Make sure you have appropriate room to move around the patient.

3. Close the shades or position the patient so there isn't any direct sunlight shining on the patient that can disrupt the scanner.
4. Have the patient wear a tight-fitting one-piece stockinette or undergarment without wrinkles. Loose clothing or wrinkles will distort the final image.
5. Place an elastic waistband snug around the patient between the last rib and the iliac crest. The waist measurement needs to be the most accurate measurement.
6. Scan more of the patient's torso than is necessary. Start at the neck and shoulders and scan all the way past the hips. Having more images to create the 3D surface will ensure more accurate results.
7. It is important that the patient remains still. If necessary, use trekking poles for the patient to stand with more stability. Even a little motion can increase the scan dimensions.
8. After scanning a full 360 degrees around the standing patient, measure the patient in the supine position. This will also ensure more accurate measurements for brace design.
9. Submit your scan with your orthometry form. (If you're using the free SpinalTech3D Scan app, it electronically integrates your scans, images, and practitioner instructions into the custom spinal and scoliosis orthometry forms.)
10. Use your phone or tablet camera to also take pictures of the patient with the waist belt and stockinette to provide the central fabrication team a complete picture of the patient

3D digital scanning saves time, resources, and refines the custom spinal orthoses ordering process. Once the fabricator has received the order, the 3D model is fine-tuned and carved into a positive mold of the patient's torso. This is used to fabricate a precise custom orthosis that can be delivered back to your patient in less time than it would take to use the casting method.

David Collins, CO, is the clinical development executive, Spinal Technology.

Related Posts:

1. **What are MACRA and MIPS?**
2. **Expulsion Valve Now Includes Vacuum Valve**
3. **Central Fabrication Accreditation: Has the Time Come?**
4. **Licensure: Setting O&P Professionals Apart from General Providers**