



## Tech Tool

Leading-Edge 3-D Imaging Puts Patients & Surgeons on Same Page

**E**very woman—and many men, one would guess—knows that words can fail, especially when it comes to describing something we don't like. It's especially true when we know we don't like something, but can't explain exactly why.

This sensation is mildly irritating when we're choosing a new bathroom design or remodeling a bedroom. But when it comes to personal appearance and the desire to change it, not having the words to explain what you mean can be downright frustrating.

To help patients visualize, in real time, how plastic surgery



could change the appearance of their own face or body, Avera Medical Group plastic surgeons Barry Martin, MD, and Mark Shashikant, MD, turn to the Vectra XT 3-D Imaging System.

"In the past, a patient may have taken her own photos, or maybe struggled to explain what she didn't like about, for example, her nose," Martin said. "This technology translates this desire with complete accuracy. There's no guessing. We can go over the images sitting side by side and be on the exact same page, long before we schedule surgery."

Both doctors said having the Vectra XT right in the clinic

makes a huge difference. A simple 10-minute Vectra session takes place as their consultation begins. Shashikant said the real-time response to the photos is crucial for him, his team and the patient.

"There are many times when patients will see something in the Vectra images that they didn't see in the mirror, and when we are sitting next to them, we can show them a variety of options, making the changes while they watch," he said. "Vectra isn't just vivid images. It provides us with a complete map, including measurements and landmarks, thus saving time in the operating room and making our pre-op planning that much better and effective."

Martin said the confidence the images provide patients is amazing. Vectra isn't just for cosmetic approaches, either. It can provide imaging for any body part and can help him and Shashikant explain multistage reconstruction approaches as well.

"We can provide the visual information that makes patients truly know we are both on the same page, and they love that," he said. "It makes us more efficient and can reduce the number of pre-operative visits they need to make. Dr. Shashikant and I both can be certain—in our minds—as to what they want from the operation."

Vectra imaging is included at no additional cost as part of any plastic or reconstructive consultation at Avera Medical Group Plastic Surgery, located in the Avera 69<sup>th</sup> and Cliff clinic. Shashikant said its accuracy makes a big difference in the special area of surgery where he and Martin work.

"A millimeter is a tiny measurement, but one millimeter in visual results—in the work we do—is huge," he said. "The Vectra technology allows us to work in fractions of millimeters, thus making our work as accurate as possible, whether the work is cosmetic, reconstructive or a combination of the two."

For more information on The Vectra XT 3-D imaging system call 605-322-4130.