The three most common types of delivery systems all have unique advantages and disadvantages. By weighing them carefully, you can determine the best delivery system for your practice. This guide makes comparing them easier.

**OVER-THE-PATIENT DELIVERY SYSTEM**

**Strengths**
- Right and left capable
- More ergonomically friendly
- Options for continental or traditional delivery unit
- Most common delivery method used in schools – most likely you are already familiar with the over-the-patient layout
- Provides expanded vertical range, which lends itself to standup dentistry

**Common Criticisms**
- Aesthetically intimidating for patients, with instruments being placed directly in front of patients
- Can add length to treatment room to allow movement of delivery arm around toe of chair
- Most expensive of delivery options

**REAR DELIVERY SYSTEM**
(Also known as 12 o’clock)

**Strengths**
- Right and left capable
- Construction costs for vacuum and air are typically less because they are plumbed to only one location, at the rear cabinet
- Most cost-effective equipment solution
- Less intimidating for patient, as delivery system and handpieces are out of direct sightline
- Instruments are out of the path of aerosol contamination of blood and saliva

**Common Criticisms**
- Ergonomic challenges can lead to increased stress on torsos of office staff during procedures due to twisting and turning to transfer instruments between hands
- Foot control can be an obstruction for dental stool movement if not routed under floor
- Increased sensitivity to accuracy of chair placement, as doctor will require more room behind patient’s head to work

**SIDE DELIVERY SYSTEM**

**Strengths**
- Aesthetically a very clean look and can stow away delivery system under cabinet
- Ergonomically sound option for doctors who sit close to 12 o’clock position on oral cavity
- Used in shorter treatment rooms as it requires no extra space at toe of chair, unlike the over-the-patient delivery system

**Common Criticisms**
- Does not provide left and right option
- Vertical high movement limitations due to mounting location on side cabinet
- Foot control can be an obstruction for dental stool and technology (CEREC) movement, if not routed under floor
- Continental delivery unit not available in this option

DETAILED DIAGRAM ON NEXT PAGE
For more information on choosing the right operatory for your practice, please contact your local Patterson Equipment Specialist or DesignEDGE team member, visit pattersondental.com or call 800.873.7683 today!