

63-14 AXCS Dental Chair and AXCS Dental Unit Combination (Project 01-13) (8/01)

The DentalEZ aXcs Dental Unit (shown at left) is an over-the-patient, chair-mounted dental unit that is compatible with the DentalEZ Model J and aXcs dental chairs. The control head is capable of supporting three air-driven handpieces and the provided autoclavable three-way syringe. The fiber-optic power unit supply is said to be able to support up to three fiber-optic handpieces. The control head has a hinged cover that allows easy access to the fiber-optic power supply as well as the control block for any needed maintenance. The control head also features a removable stainless-steel instrument tray on the top surface. The aXcs Dental Unit's side console houses a self-contained water system, plumbing quick connections, and external air and water outlet connectors for accessories. The unit that was evaluated was



ordered with a moveable accessory tray instead of the optional cuspidor. The assistant's breakaway arm includes high-volume evacuation, saliva ejector, and a three-way air/water syringe. In order to facilitate cleaning of the horizontally-aligned filter, both high- and low-volume suction feature a rotary valve to shut off the vacuum. The control head has a sealed, programmable touchpad control for the dental chair; a foot control is also available. Chair control option combinations are limited to either two touchpads or a touchpad and a foot control for each DentalEZ operating system. The aXcs Dental Chair and Unit are said to have a durable, powder coating that provides both rounded corners and smooth surfaces to enhance cleaning. DentalEZ provides a three-year warranty covering the structures, controls, and electronics. The DentalEZ aXcs Chair and Unit are both UL and CE listed and are available in either 115-volt or 230-volt AC. DIS has previously evaluated the aXcs Dental Chair (Project 98-10) and rated it "Acceptable." The only other evaluation of the aXcs Dental Unit was in combination with the DentalEZ J Chair (Project 99-53). Unfortunately, this combination of the Dental Unit and Chair was rated "Marginal" due to stability problems and poor manufacturer support. This is the first DIS evaluation of the combination of the aXcs Dental Unit and the aXcs Dental Chair.



Manufacturer:

DentalEZ
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Suggested Retail Price:

aXcs Chair with one control (unit-mounted or foot control) is: \$5,810.00
aXcs Chair with two controls (two unit-mounted or one foot and one unit-mounted control): \$6,070.00
aXcs Unit (CMU-B): \$5,660.00

Government Price:

aXcs Chair with one control (unit-mounted or foot control): \$2,876.00
aXcs Chair with two controls (two unit-mounted or one foot and one unit-mounted control): \$3,016.95
aXcs Unit (CMU-B): \$2,468.00

ADVANTAGES:

- + Less expensive than other units evaluated by DIS.
- + Smooth, rounded, aseptic design.
- + The stability of the dental unit and chair has improved compared to previously-evaluated combinations.

- + Customer service from DentalEZ has improved over previous evaluations.
- + Conversion of the dental chair and unit from right-hand to left-hand configuration is easily accomplished.
- + Durable, powder-coated finish.
- + Features individual handpiece drive-air and water adjustments.
- + Hinged panel allows easy access to control block for service.
- + Has a one-piece, quick-release, twist-lock coupler for connecting handpieces to their hoses.
- + Internal tubing is color-coded for ease of service.
- + The side console has external air and water connections for use with accessory items.
- + Has a positive latch brake assembly for the control head arm.
- + Rotary valve on high evacuation suction allows easy control of function.
- + Easy-to-remove vacuum filter.
- + Three-year warranty on structures, controls and electronics.

DISADVANTAGES:

- Activation of fiber optics requires handpiece air to be on.
- Minor rough and sharp edges were found on the base frame of the dental chair.
- Restricted chair swivel may limit patient access in some situations.
- The cover of the side console was very difficult to replace.
- Schematic error was found in connector to dental light.
- No exploded parts diagram was provided for the dental chair.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

The DentalEZ aXcs Dental Chair and aXcs Dental Unit met the laboratory testing requirements of American Dental Association Specification #47, NFPA 99, and most of the Dental Chair Medical Procurement Item Description #2. The unit has esthetic, smooth lines and contours, and it functioned well during the clinical evaluation. The clinical evaluator found the unit easy to use in a pediatric dental practice and rated it "Excellent." Right-hand to left-hand conversion of the dental unit is easily accomplished in approximately 15 minutes. The stability of this combination of dental chair and unit is much better than that of the aXcs Unit and J Chair combination. Also, DentalEZ customer service has improved considerable over time. The side console cover is difficult to replace and an exploded parts diagram should be provided for the aXcs Chair. The **aXcs Dental Chair** and Unit are rated **Acceptable** for use by the federal dental services.