Esthetic composite restorations: the state of the art

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Abstract
Nowadays dentist has a wide choice of restorative materials available when replacing missing or damaged tooth structures in both anterior and posterior teeth. Anterior and posterior restorations can be made with ceramic or composite. With ceramic we can do just indirect restorations like full crowns, veneers or inlays onlays and overlays. The indirect technique however requires a dental preparation with a certain sacrifice of sound tissues. Direct composite restorations, on the contrary, allow a more conservative treatment with a minimal dental substrate removal. To achieve optimal results, it is important to select the appropriate restorative technique. Despite the aesthetic potential of modern composite resins, restorations of anterior teeth require a more sophisticated approach but the use of a natural layering technique with dentine, enamel, and transparent bodies can assure a positive aesthetic results. On posterior teeth the clinical problems are different when compared to the front teeth. In particular we have to achieve an optimal anatomy in both occlusal and proximal areas (i.e. proximal contact); layering the material is important in order to better control the shrinkage stress, avoiding leakage, post-op sensitivity and cuspal microfractures. It is really important that the treating clinician have a thorough understanding of the principles that lead to a successful outcome.

Posterior composite restorations
- Adhesion to dental substrates
- Direct and indirect composite restorations: general indications
- Longevity of posterior composite restorations
- Direct restorations: clinical procedures
- Indirect restorations: clinical procedures

Anterior composite restorations
- Indications of direct restorations, veneers and full crowns restorations
- Longevity of direct restorations, veneers and full crowns restorations
- Preoperative check up
- Layering techniques
- Materials for natural layering
- Clinical procedures
- Finishing and polishing

New perspectives in adhesive dentistry.
- Treatment of erosions / abrasions: are traditional treatments still the standard?

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