



**Figure 6.** Removal of the evagination and the placement of a composite restoration to improve the appearance of the upper right central incisor.

tooth. As the tooth appeared to be symptom free and not affecting the adjacent teeth (Figure 7), it seems reasonable to leave the tooth *in situ* until the permanent dentition has matured. At this stage the elective replacement of the tooth by a permanent prosthesis may be considered.

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**Figure 7.** Periapical radiograph showing the apical appearance of the upper right central incisor at most recent review (March 2000).

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**ABSTRACT**

**ANOTHER PINT?**

*In Vitro* Approach to Evaluate Potential Harmful Effects of Beer on Teeth. F.N. Nogueira, D.N. Souza and J. Nicolau. *Journal of Dentistry* 2000; **28**: 271–276.

Prompted by the observation that many alcoholics display signs of erosive toothwear, a group of Brazilian investigators examined the effects of beer on teeth. They included seven brands of beer, largely South American but two Western brands were studied. The pH and amount of titratable acid in each beer sample were measured as were the calcium and phosphate concentrations following immersion of tooth fragments in the beer.

Although the pH varied, all brands had a pH below 5.5 which means they

at least have the potential to cause tooth erosion. Also, although some brands contained an inherently high concentration of calcium, this did not seem to affect the amount of dissolution of calcium from the tooth substance which was quite surprising. Furthermore, the greatest amount of calcium dissolution was within the first five minutes. The authors did note, however, that these *in vitro* experiments did not reflect the intraoral environment where the buffering effect of saliva probably reduces much of these effects.

Additionally, the authors noted that the sugar, maltose, was present in all the beer samples and this is a substrate of many oral bacteria. Therefore, the beers may also be expected to have cariogenic potential in addition to the erosive effects. Some of the beers contained fluoride, presumably from the source water, but

the amount was less than 0.01 ppm and so the beneficial effect would probably not be significant.

This highlights the need to investigate the whole spectrum of patients' intake when presented with the, now common, finding of tooth erosion.

**Richard Oliver**  
**University Dental Hospital of Manchester**

**ERRATUM**

**British Dental Editor's Forum**

The next meeting of the Forum will take place at the Royal Society of Medicine on Tuesday 22 May 2001 (not Monday 21 May 2001).