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ABSTRACTS

ARE YOUR SPORTY PATIENTS PROTECTED?

Dentists' Attitudes Towards Mouthguard Protection. C.L. Meastrella, A.P. Mourino, F.H. Farrington. *American Journal of Paediatric Dentistry* 1999; **21**(6): 340-346.

This study questioned 2,500 American dentists on their attitude to the provision of mouthguard protection for their patients. They found that whilst 97% of orthodontists and 84% of paedodontists routinely recommended mouthguards for athletically active patients, the figure for general dental practitioners was only 67%. The main reasons for not recommending them were either that they could be obtained more cheaply from other, non-dental sources, or that the practitioner had no formal training in their construction.

The authors review the literature relating to such provision, and express their concern that the retention, comfort, fit, ease of speech, resistance to wear and ease of breathing are all better with custom-made appliances. They suggest that it should be a professional obligation to advise patients of the need for such dental protection.

DO YOU STILL SUFFER FROM 'ORO-FISCAL DRAG'?

A Survey of Patient Perceptions of Dental Charges. A.D. Brown, A.C. Mellor, J.R. Main. *Primary Dental Care* 1999; **6**(4): 151-155.

A sample of patients attending Manchester Dental Hospital were invited to complete two short questionnaires on their perceived monetary value of various dental procedures. The first questionnaire, prior to any treatment, asked about the patients' previous experience of dental care, and invited monetary valuation of various procedures. The second questionnaire followed careful explanation of the procedures concerned.

The mean values of all treatments were found to have increased significantly in the second questionnaire. The authors conclude that time spent in explanation of the dental procedures proposed was time well spent, and had major implications in pricing strategies in dental practice. An interesting incidental finding was that almost half of the patients thought that dental examinations should be free, and may be deterred from attending owing to the cost. This unusual paper provides help and advice for those who suffer what Ellis Paul termed 'oro-fiscal drag', which is when your brain says £100 and your mouth says £50!

Peter Carrotte
Glasgow Dental School

ERRATUM

Figure 3 in the article by F.J.T. Burke and L. Crooks:

Reconstruction of a Hemisectioned Tooth with an Adhesive Ceramic Restoration using Intraradicular Retention

(*Dent Update* 1999; **26**: 448-452) was incorrect. Please see below for the correct version.

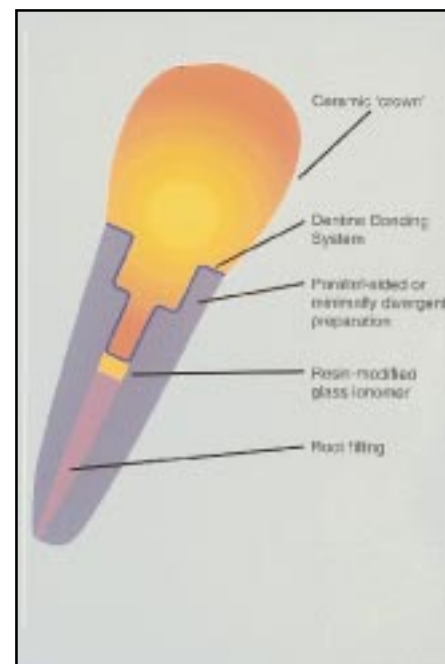


Figure 3. Diagrammatic representation of the proposed adhesive intraradicular ceramic restoration.