

COMMENTARY

Evaluation of the Possibility of Removing Staining by Repolishing Composite Resins Submitted to Artificial Aging

PATRICK ROETZER, DDS*

Replacement of anterior and posterior composites because of staining is a common practice. Unfortunately, this often utilized procedure subjects the tooth microcrystalline structure and pulp to needless trauma. Given the high bond strengths of current dentin/enamel bonds, replacement because of microleakage has become less of a necessity than in times past. If the operator has done the restoration and has intimate knowledge of the material used, he or she can be reasonably certain that “dressing” the restoration down will eliminate surface stain. It is critical that radiolucent areas apparent around the periphery of the restoration are thick adhesives or flowable composite. Once all factors that would require replacement, i.e., microleakage or frank caries are ruled out, polishing the restoration is the treatment of choice. The study reported on here indicates that only 20 u is required. The doctor has a wide variety of polishing points and media that can be relied upon to remove the minimum amount of composite without “cratering” the surface. This study proves unequivocally that minimal treatment will yield satisfactory results with minimal impact on the teeth. My hope is that studies like this one will result in dentists practicing minimally invasive treatments. As a further study or follow-up study, it would be helpful to utilize several different devices/media to accomplish 20 u increment removals. Further work could enhance this report if the devices/materials used to polish these restorations were graded as to efficacy. It was very instructive to see how different manufacturer’s composites responded to the staining/aging process. Any future studies also may want to address the training level of the operator, i.e., are they dentists, hygienists, or extended function registered dental assistants. The least costly personnel may prove to be best for the patient as their fee could be lower.

*Private Practice, San Ramon, CA, USA

This commentary is accompanied by article, “Evaluation of the Possibility of Removing Staining by Repolishing Composite Resins Submitted to Artificial Aging” Taciana Emília de Almeida Anfe, DDS, MS, Carlos Martins Agra, DDS, MSc, PhD, Glauco Fioranelli Vieira, DDS, PhD, DOI 10.1111/j.1708-8240.2011.00435.x.

Copyright of Journal of Esthetic & Restorative Dentistry is the property of Wiley-Blackwell and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.