

## COMMENTARY

## DIRECT ESTHETIC RESTORATIONS BASED ON TRANSLUCENCY AND OPACITY OF COMPOSITE RESINS

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Since their introduction in the 1960s, composite resins have evolved from simple paste–paste, chemically activated, single-shade systems to very sophisticated, light-activated, multiple-shade systems. Not only have the material's mechanical and physical properties improved dramatically, but also the optical properties and handling characteristics of current composites allow them to be integrated seamlessly with the surrounding tooth structures in what have been described as “invisible restorations.” However, it is not always easy for the clinician to achieve these results, despite the wide range of composite shades, translucencies, and opacities currently available. This is due in great part to the complexity and variability of the color elements in the natural dentition and also to our incomplete understanding of how composites perform in different light conditions, thicknesses, and specific applications.

The article “Direct Esthetic Restorations Based on Translucency and Opacity of Composite Resins” by Drs. Milko Villarroel, Newton Fahl Jr., Andrea Maria de Sousa, and Osmir Batista de Oliveira Jr., from Araraquara and Curitiba, Brazil, is an excellent review of the esthetic elements related to the use of composite resins. By thoroughly reviewing concepts that range from “the nature of light” to “translucency and opacity in composite resins,” the authors share their expertise and experience in selecting composites and obtaining invisible restorations. The article is also superbly illustrated with examples that should help the reader grasp the concepts of translucency and opacity as they apply to dentin, enamel, and composite resins. In summary, Dr. Villarroel and colleagues should be congratulated on this excellent review of these important esthetic elements applied to clinical restorative dentistry.

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This commentary is accompanied by article, “Direct Esthetic Restorations Based on Translucency and Opacity of Composite Resins,” Milko Villarroel, DDS, MS, PhD, Newton Fahl, Jr., DDS, MS, Andrea Maria De Sousa, DDS, MS, Osmir Batista De Oliveira, Jr., DDS, MS, PhD, DOI 10.1111/j.1708-8240.2010.00392.x.

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