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Preface

Restorative dentistry



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The art and science of restorative dentistry has evolved dramatically in the past 20 years. Advanced dental materials development and clinical testing has contributed to the establishment of evidence-based treatment planning. Two major changes include the design of more conservative cavity preparations for both amalgam and composite restorations. Although composite restorations have been evaluated in many papers, longer-term studies are necessary to reach a definite conclusion. Consideration of dentin permeability is important because adhesives and resins are hydrophilic but cannot withstand a constantly saturated environment.

An aspect of restorative dentistry that has improved is the advent and development of CAD/CAM restorations and undoubtedly, use of this type of restoration will increase because of reduced manufacturing time and cost when compared to the manufacture of cast restorations.

The more knowledgeable we are about fluoride-releasing materials and their mechanisms, the more able we will be to participate more effectively in the prevention and treatment of demineralization and greater benefits will be possible. Additional elements and components should be evaluated for use in the medical-model treatment of dental lesions.

Other subjects covered in this issue are the management of endodontically-treated teeth, complex restorations, and root caries. These three aspects are highly important in light of larger populations of older persons who want to retain their teeth for a longer period of time. Because of this fact, increased clinical research is needed to establish evidence-based treatment plans. This issue of *Dental Clinics of North America* includes significant clinical aspects of restorative dentistry, especially for general practitioners interested in updating their base of knowledge. It is hoped this issue will provide a springboard for further study and research.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the contributors to this issue who accepted my invitation to participate, and who met deadlines in a professional and timely manner.

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