Dr. George Freedman, Canada

In this new section of Dental Tribune, Dr. Freedman gives you a brief summary of products that have been introduced into the field of dentistry. His perspective is based on actual use of the products in his private clinical practice. Dr. Freedman is past president of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry and Associate Director of the Esthetic Dentistry Education Center at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Freedman is the program chairman of the Clinical Innovations Conference (London, United Kingdom). You may contact him at epdot@rogers.com.

First Impressions

Venus Microhybrid with Color Adaptive Matrix - Heraeus Kulzer

The microhybrid composite is the universal restorative for anterior and posterior cavity preparations. This places heavy burdens upon the material, it has to be strong enough to resist posterior occlusal forces and it has to be aesthetic enough to perfectly blend anterior restorations. Heraeus has had an excellent history with chameleon-like composite materials—Charisma has been available for more than a decade. Venus, the newest microhybrid from Heraeus Kulzer has a proprietary color adaptive matrix system that optimizes the refractive indices of the matrix and the fillers such that margins can virtually disappear. This makes shade selection and polishing of restorations much less technique sensitive, and much more rapid. The 27 shades and translucency of Venus create life-like restorations that readily match tooth coloration with a great deal of “forgiveness.” The shade guide is an intuitive two-layer cookbook that incorporates real composite shade tabs (rather than acrylics or ceramics) eliminating color matching inaccuracies. Truly creative aesthetic dentistry has never been so easy. Venus does not stick to placement instruments and has very good handling properties including minimum slumping. The higher rotational speed considerably faster and provides an improved tactile feel within the canals. The higher rotational speed removes debris from within the canal more effectively as well. The triangular cross section of the file provides sharp cutting edges that reduce the torque demand on the instrument. An essential feature is the Soano safety tip that has been designed to minimize lodging and transportation. It also tends to keep the Liberator files centered in the canal. Further, since the Liberator files do not self thread, Resilon, gutta percha points, and other obturation materials can be more easily recovered from the canals. During use, the Liberator files must be advanced into the tooth with just enough pressure to make progress down the canal; since there is no possibility of self-threading to potential separation, self thread into a canal. The manufacturing process for helical files can also leave micro-cracks perpendicular to the axis of the file itself, possibly contributing to potential separation. Years of clinical research and input from leading endodontic clinicians has led to the development of innovative file designs. The recently introduced Liberator NIH/Endodontic files from Melitec are manufactured incorporating a straight flute design that cannot thread into the canal, and one that eliminates the perpendicular micro-cracks. Liberator files are used at 1,000-2,000 rpm (compared to conventional rotary files at 500 rpm). 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The single tooth crown/onlay is the most common indirect procedure in dentistry. In order to maintain our patients' expectations between the preparation and delivery appointments, good temporization materials are essential for both vital and non-vital teeth. The provisional restoration keeps any adjacent teeth in place, preventing the slight drifting that can complicate cementation, and maintains the opposing dentition from super-erupting. Luxatemp was the original auto-mix provisional bis-acryl material. Over the years, it has simplified crown and bridge treatment tremendously. Now DMG has introduced Luxatemp with Fluorescence, offering natural fluorescence and reflectance in the temporary restoration that gives a patient-pleasing natural look, including under dark or black light conditions. Luxatemp Fluorescence is an indication of the DMG's efforts to improve the standard of provisional restorations. Luxatemp Fluorescence looks good, feels good, is functional and easy to fabricate, and most importantly, effectively takes the place of the missing natural tooth during the entire provisional phase.

Opalescence TresWhite - Ultradent

From time to time, a product that makes a quantum leap in the treatment process is introduced into the dental field. This type of a paradigm shift in dental thinking usually propels the entire profession into an innovative, more practical direction. The introduction of Opalescence TresWhite by Ultradent is such an innovation. The TresWhite bleaching system makes the at-home bleaching process much simpler, much easier, and much more patient and dentist friendly by eliminating the need for impressions and models. The TresWhite system eliminates bleaching tray impressions, the pouring and trimming of stone models, the development of the reservoirs, and lab time. It offers a prefilled plastic tray that contains a thin, bleach-loaded membrane that is easily adapted to the teeth through direct placement and adherence. The unique delivery system allows patients to place the carrying tray into their own mouths, and to immediately adapt the membrane to their own teeth for a very comfortable custom fit. TresWhite whitens all teeth in an arch. TresWhite’s thin membrane custom tray is pre-loaded with two gels: an activator 9% hydrogen peroxide gel that actively whitens teeth for an hour or so, and a barrier gel that is designed to protect gingival tissues from the bleaching component. As a result of TresWhite's design, during bleaching treatment, and that the Opalescence TresWhite trays fit well. They are fast, and are fun. Most importantly, they work quickly, effectively, and comfortably.