Triodent hits another home run

The inventor of the highly successful V3 Sectional Matrix System, Dr. Simon McDonald, has now turned his attention to posterior impressions.

Although triple trays are a great time and cost saver, some dentists have concerns about their accuracy. It is widely accepted that the flexion of plastic is the major culprit because it causes “bounce-back,” usually occurring when the tongue puts pressure on the lingual arm.

“If we look at it from the patient’s point of view,” McDonald says, “we get them to close their teeth with this glob of slow-setting impression material in their mouth. They’re lying back, trying to protect their airway, and of course, they can’t always control their tongue — which is quite possibly numb — so it often puts upward pressure on the tray. The tongue is very strong and can deflect the lingual arm and the dentist may have no idea that it has happened. If this occurs, the tray wants to return to its original position, and by the time it gets to the lab, the impression is distorted.

“Dentists want all crowns to fit perfectly,” he says, “but because of this lack of confidence in triple trays, there has always been that dreadful moment of doubt when they fit the new crown.”

Seeing the need for a more rigid and accurate posterior impression triple tray, McDonald set about developing a “problem-proof” tray.

His solution is the metal Triotray. Its uniqueness is immediately obvious — instead of a flat frame, the Triotray has a small rolled edge to create rigidity and flared tabs on the upper and lower sides. The tabs guide the tongue into a passive position next to the tray, where it cannot put pressure on the lingual arm. The sturdy frame and the effect of the impression material locking into the side tabs combine to give the Triotray excellent rigidity. In addition, because the tabs contain the impression material, the need for contact adhesive has been eliminated, saving time and avoiding the unpleasant smell.

Dr. Graeme Millicich, one of the dentists involved in the trials of the Triotray, said in a recent online post: “The new Triotray is brilliant MHO [in my humble opinion], I have had the opportunity over the past few months to play with the prototypes, and I was really excited by the very first sample. There have been some subtle but very significant modifications that pretty much deal with all the potential negative issues associated with using dual arch impression trays.”

Triotray maintains a thin, rigid design in the retro-molar area, which allows the patient to close easily and comfortably in centric occlusion (maximum intercuspidation position). The trays have been pre-shaped to deflect the tongue, so they come in left and right versions, and still the tabs can be bent to fit all mouths, including those of patients with a shallow palate, wide buccal plate or mandibular tori.

McDonald established Triodent in 2005 with the intention of finding “simple solutions for smart dentists” that has become the company’s philosophy. It is a principle that guides research and development and has been the impetus behind every development and extension in the Triodent product range. As a practicing dentist, McDonald remains in touch with the needs of the profession, so a solution or an improvement for dentists generally is also an improvement for him. And that brings him back to the Triotray’s major quality — reliable accuracy.

“I sympathize with dentists who experience the frustration of having a patient come for a crown seat appointment, only to find the impression was distorted and the crown doesn’t fit properly,” he says. “Previous minutes are wasted on grinding the inside of the crown, which usually doesn’t impress the patient. And if that fails, there’s the last resort of a re-make and the third visit.

“Ideally you want the crown to drop in every time with minimal adjustments. When the crown doesn’t fit well, the profit diminishes and the patient can be seriously inconvenienced, losing time off work and incurring his or her own extra costs. Imagine eliminating that, and imagine eliminating those disputes with the lab over a distorted impression.”

In a later online post to the same thread, Dr. Louis Maichmacher says: “I have tried a couple of Triotray systems and they are fabulous! Dr. Simon McDonald has hit another home run — I can’t live without the V3 ring from Triodont, and Triotrays will be another ‘must have’ product.”

McDonald built his reputation on the V-Ring Sectional Matrix System, now updated with the V3 Ring and its vital sister components, the V3 Matrix and Wave Wedge. The system has been a major success, to the point where Triodont is the fastest growing manufacturer in New Zealand and among the top 150 fastest growing companies in the Asia-Pacific region.

For more information, stop by the Triodont booth, No. 376, during the AACD.

BeautiBond puts two powerful monomers into one thin adhesive

By Fred Michmershuizen, Managing Editor, Endo Tribune

BeautiBond is a seventh-generation adhesive developed by Shofu. According to the company, this new product contains two powerful monomers — one for the dentin and one for the enamel — that provides a powerful bond that is less than 5 micrometers thick. And to make things even better, it is easy to use and requires very few steps.

Just ask Howard S. Glazer, DDS, a general practitioner who has been using the new product for several months now at his practice in Fort Lee, N.J.

“I have been a seventh-generation user from the day they were introduced and have used every one on the market, and I am telling you — this one is hot, and it is getting hotter,” Glazer told Dental Tribune during an interview at the Chicago Midwinter Meeting.

“It will definitely get people who have been hesitating to switch. In fact, it makes ‘the leap’ so much easier, and ‘the leap’ is in quotes because there is no leap really.”

Glazer said he likes BeautiBond because it incorporates two separate chemistries that bond to both the dentin and the enamel. He also likes the fact that it works with a very low micrometer thickness, leaving no gap of potential porosity for his patients. And another huge plus, Glazer said, is the ease of use the product offers. BeautiBond comes in a “unit dose” size, and the package is designed in such a way that it will not tip over.

“There is no fumbling, no mixing, no shaking,” Glazer said. “Just look at the steps card — it is as easy as one, two, three.”

BeautiBond can be used with any composite resin on the market, and to make it even more appealing to dentists at the Chicago Midwinter Meeting, Shofu had a special trial offer: a box of 60 for the price of 50, with a money-back guarantee if you don’t like it.

A curious practitioner who is always looking for increased efficiency, Glazer typically tests half a dozen or so new products every month.

“I want things that are faster, easier and better, not only for me, the doctor, but also for the ultimate end user — the patient,” he said. “After all, we’re in the smile business, so we like to keep everybody smiling.”