Easy and Accurate Provisional Restorations

Steven Miller provides practical tips to ensure success with provisional restorations

Dr Steven Miller, Associate Faculty of the Dawson Academy and Past President of The American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry provides reliable techniques on how to provide Easy and Accurate Provisional Restorations. Whether the treatment plan is a few single restorations or a full mouth rehabilitation, the first step is always a Comprehensive Examination! Provisional restorations play a far more important role than just a transitional role while the laboratory fabricates the definitive restoration. Of course they function to protect the dentin and pulp from thermal, chemical, mechanical and bacterial damage, but there is much more.

They are adjusted for ideal aesthetics, phonetics and function. Provisional restorations provide the dentist, patient and dental laboratory with “in vivo” information, as the patient tests drives the restoration. Especially when changing aesthetics and function, feedback is obtained regarding contour, shape, incisal edge position, over-all aesthetics and function. When dealing with periodontal procedures, such as grafting, crown lengthening and implants, they serve as a great healing evaluation tool. Accurate records include photographs and mounted models of patient approved temporary provides the laboratory with a functional prescription for the definitive restorations.

Whether the treatment plan is a few single restorations or a full mouth rehabilitation, the first step is always a comprehensive examination. Once we have confirmed stable dental health, the treatment planning process can proceed.

There are two patient scenarios that I will describe.

Patient one: Stable function, no aesthetic wants and minor restorative needs, such as a quadrant or less

My dental assistant takes a PVS or less impression is being taken. This impression is being placed in room temperature water for about 10 minutes. We use a light bodied PVS, and place it on the articulator to register the opposing arch to guide the matrix accurately. We also make a Mini-Star vacuum formed clear matrix on a solid model of the wax-up. This clear matrix acts as a guide to visualise clearance and also can be used as a provisional matrix.

After the preparations are completed, we utilise either the Bis-acryl lock-on or the Bis-acryl remove and contour technique to fabricate the provisional. After the margins and gingival embrasures have been developed, the Bis-acryl provisional adjustment guide developed by Dr. Dawson is utilised in the mouth. Phonetics, incisal length, centric stops, anterior guidance and long centric are all developed.

The patient is re-appointed with a week for refinement, verification and after approval, records. These records include mounted models of the approved provisional and the Dawson phototographic series. Matrices and a custom incisal guide table are fabricated by the lab to help organise all the information. The definitive restorations are then created without guesswork.

This technique provides reliable, predictable and accurate provisional that allow restorative dentistry to be less stressful and fun. Provisional restorations play a far more important role.

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