Easy and Accurate Provisional Restorations

Steven Miller provides practical tips to ensure success with provisional restorations

The examination process now includes mounted models with a centric bite and the Dawson pho-
tographic series. The accuracy of these records incorporating all teeth, gingival and vestibular ar-
etas is of paramount importance. The age old adage of garbage-in, garbage-out applies, so make
sure to do a thorough examination and take accurate records.

The next step is quiet thinking time and utilising the functional-aesthetic analysis checklist. This
checklist creates a problem list that includes the biological, structural, functional, and aesthetic
components of a smile. It helps create a vision with the end in mind. This vision is then translat-
ed into the 3D architectural plan, the wax-up. The wax-up that incorpo-ates the findings from the FE checklist is one of the most important steps for consistent pre-
dictable success.

Prior to the appointment, my dental assistants fabricate from the wax-up the Siltec Putty ma-
trix that has been refined with a light bodied PVS, and place it on the articulator to register the op-
posing 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 embra-
sures have been developed, the 10 step provisional adjustment guide developed by Dr. Dawson is uti-
liised in the mouth. Phonetics, in-
cisal 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 pho-
tographic series. Matrices and a custom incisal guide table are fab-
ricated by the lab to communicate all the information. The defini-
tive 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.