Ortho Tribune | June/July 2009

Opal Etch

Opal Etch is a 35 percent phosphoric acid etchant with a unique, self-limiting chemistry that minimizes the possibility of over-etching. It combines the top attributes of etchants including variable viscosity, the ability to penetrate in the smallest fissures on occlusal surfaces, precise placement on vertical surfaces without migration and self-limiting etching.

The distinct blue gel is dispensed by a syringe with tips that aid in a controlled flow and precise application. The thixotropic solution thins and paints on easily, unlike other gels that are difficult to spread. The gel is viscous enough to prevent migration on a vertical surface, but can still penetrate in the smallest fissures on occlusal surfaces because of its physical and chemical properties, which promote capillary action. The viscosity also allows it to maintain a thick enough layer to prevent premature drying and inadequate etching.

Studies and clinical experience have indicated that 15 to 30 seconds is adequate for etching most young, permanent teeth. However, variations exist when considering enamel solubility between patients and possibly within the same tooth.

One benefit of conventional acid etching is that it tends to neutralize the differences between individuals and between teeth. Thus, a phosphoric acid etch of sufficient time can compensate for those individuals whose enamel is more acid resistant.

“Attempts to use materials that produce a minimal etch — such as glass ionomers, hybrid resin glass ionomers, and the newer self-etching primers — appear to result in increased clinical bond failure rates,” according to the book, “Orthodontics, Current Principles and Techniques.”

The self-limiting properties of Opal Etch prevent over-etching to create the ideal bonding surface. Originally touted as a benefit for etching dentin because etching too deeply can result in sensitiviy, the thixotropic properties in Opal Etch work equally well on enamel.

The proprietary formulation of Opal Etch also contains a surfactant for easy rinsing of the gel, thus simplifying removal.

Thickening agents such as polymers and submicron silica additives, which often leave a residue, are not included in this formulation.


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Dentistry meets its ‘cloud computing’ match in DentalCollab

Modulus Media launches centralized, treatment management system with an online social networking system

Toronto, Canada — Modulus Media, a Toronto-based technology development and marketing company, announced the June 26 launch of DentalCollab, a Web-based software — available at www.DentalCollab.com — that finally unites a centralized, treatment management system with an online social networking system to create the ideal “Treatment Workspace” for the field of dentistry.

The “cloud” in cloud computing is a metaphor for the Internet. As an expression, cloud computing entails offering Web-based software services via the Internet where the data and software are stored on servers managed by the service provider.

Thus, cloud computing users do not need to spend untold dollars on hardware, software, upgrades or ancillary support services, but need only to pay for the services they use.

Some of the more trusted and familiar cloud computing services are online banking, e-mail accounts such as Gmail™ or Yahoo! Mail®, social portals such as Facebook and MySpace and Internet-based photo albums on sites such as Webshots or Flickr.6

Similarly, DentalCollab is a cloud computing service that allows the dental community to not only facilitate all aspects of treatment management, but also to collaborate with specialists, consult with patients, coordinate with referrals, mentor or be mentored by peers, and share cases with labs and suppliers.

Through its creation of a shared Treatment Workspace, DentalCollab allows practitioners completely secure patient information management and includes seamless treatment planning, while also facilitating networking with experts anywhere on the planet who have a computer with Internet access.

The Treatment Workspace is an easily navigated mini-Web page where all those involved in a patient’s care can coordinate their efforts as well as share and manage vital information.

Additionally, staff members can schedule appointments, follow-ups and reminders, consult with patients and manage multiple schedules for even the busiest practice.

“Our comprehensive software allows you to easily interface many of your other programs such as charting systems, digital X-rays and patient financing services, thus consolidating your information,” said DentalCollab founder Shane Powell.

DentalCollab uses the same hardware and software security provisions that online banking providers use — end-to-end encrypted data infrastructure; back-ups/data redundancy; 24/7 system monitoring; permissions/rules-based user management; and 256-bit bank-grade security certificates with a $100,000 warranty.

Finally, dentists have a place to do everything they need, and want, to provide the utmost in treatment planning and meet the modern needs of their techno-savvy patients by going beyond the traditional method of contact via telephone and snail mail.

Using DentalCollab means dentists can avoid costly software upgrades, hardware upkeep and the time wasted seeking out technical support or repairs.

“The DentalCollab software functions like a basic Web page, so it feels as if it is running on your own computer. This translates into a very short and fast learning curve,” explained Powell.

DentalCollab saves practitioners time and money.

For more information, please visit www.DentalCollab.com or e-mail sales@dentalcollab.com.