Title: The Willi Geller Honorary Lecture: Dental Technology – Tradition and Future.

Abstract

Dentistry that is highly functional, esthetic and durable has an impact on the clinical success, and is intrinsically appreciated by the patient. This is often achieved in collaboration with a dental laboratory. The knowledge transmitted by dental science on new ceramic materials, has led to better standards of quality and artistry in clinical applications. These new materials are contributing to outcomes that are continually more stable and repeatable.

Specifically, the new fabrication methods by CAD/CAM technology and printing are important additions to the toolbox of possible restoration materials to be selected for treatment. Monolithic all-ceramic materials have become a more popular choice for many treatments since chipping is not an issue for this kind of material compared to bilayered ceramics. However, it is essential to note that all our materials have their place. Each should be used where its properties can be developed to attain the maximum advantage.

Understanding methods to manage simple and complex restorative issues are critical to improving success of the treatment plan, and profound collaboration between clinic and laboratory is still necessary to achieve long term success and patient satisfaction. Team leaders have to understand the limitations of all the materials they use to maintain patient's satisfaction and wellbeing over the years.

Learning Objectives

1) Understand the factors and concerns dentists and dental technologists face when treating a patient with esthetic demands.

2) Identify and appreciate controversies and limitations that exist with various modern dental materials.

3) To understand which clinical factors impact long term survival of dental ceramic material.