

Investigation of the longevity of anterior resin bonded bridges

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Introduction

Anterior adhesive bridges were developed in the 1970's and widely promoted in the 1980's. The concept was to create a metal ceramic bridge to replace missing teeth which required minimal tooth preparation and still provide adequate retention. This was in contrast to conventional crown and bridge work which required full crown preparation on the abutment teeth.

After the initial euphoria, anterior adhesive bridges began to fail after de-bonding of the retainer on the abutment teeth. Failures would occur after only a few months in some cases, with no predictability and the bridges were considered to be temporary short term bridges. Numerous design and material changes were experimented with during the 1980's in an attempt to get long term retention and reliable success.

Aims

The project aims to evaluate the survival of anterior adhesive bridges (ARBBs) with a specific tooth preparation design provided to a patient cohort by prosthodontists in Melbourne.

Rationale

This study is designed to review the retention of Anterior Adhesive Bridges following design principles. The bridges were placed in the patients mouths from 1990 to 2012. If de-bonding rates are low then adhesive bridges could be considered as a permanent restoration rather than a temporary restoration.

Methodology

This project will be based on review of patient records (from six prosthodontists and one general dental practitioner from 1990 to 2012) and a telephone interview. Patient demographics and information of the treatment procedures will be obtained from the case record. Participation in the telephone interview will be voluntary.

What are the expected outcomes?

It is anticipated this project will determine the incidence and reasons for any failures/ complications, e.g. caries on abutment, periodontal on abutment.

