I. Diagnosis, Prevention and Management of Dental Erosion  The number of patients presenting in dental offices with extensive loss of tooth structure is increasing. The etiology of loss of this tooth structure in most cases is multifactorial, and chemical erosion plays a major role in many patients. This presentation will introduce the concept of erosive tooth wear and address the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of extensive tooth structure loss due to erosion and bruxism.

II. The Role of All-Ceramic Crowns in Contemporary Restorative Dentistry  Dentistry as a profession and society in general seems to be obsessed with the topic of esthetics. Manufacturers have introduced numerous all-ceramic systems in recent years in order to satisfy this seemingly insatiable appetite. Many manufacturers and dental laboratories are marketing these all-ceramic systems aggressively, suggesting that they can provide superior esthetics and equivalent longevity to metal-ceramic restorations. Many dentists are confused by the many claims and counterclaims that are seen in the trade literature and are further confused by conflicting data appearing in the scientific literature. This presentation will evaluate existing all-ceramic systems and compare their relative esthetic potential and potential lifespan using properly fabricated metal-ceramic restorations as the gold standard. Suggestions for use of different systems in specific clinical situations will be given based on available clinical evidence.

III. Update in Adhesive Restorative Dentistry  Adhesive restorative dentistry has become pre-eminent in most dental practices. The ability to bond predictably to both enamel and dentin is critical to long-term clinical success. Dentin bonding agents have evolved extensively over the past 2 decades and there is much confusion amongst dentists as to which materials have the best evidence base. This presentation will discuss contemporary enamel/dentin bonding materials, explain their mode of action and the differences between them. Critical manipulative techniques to insure clinical success will also be presented.
IV. The Longevity of the Tooth/Restoration Complex  

Dentists and patients have an awesome number of options for the restoration of decayed or damaged teeth. Patients want to know the answers to 2 important questions before choosing an option for their specific problem. Those questions are, “How much does it cost”? and “How long will it last”? While the approximate cost of any restorative service is relatively simple to estimate, the only honest answer to the 2nd question is, “It depends”. It depends on the complex interaction of a number of variables related to the material chosen, patient and dentist factors, and factors related to the specific tooth (or teeth) to be restored. This presentation will sort out the relative importance of each of these factors to help the dentist determine a realistic prognosis for proposed patient treatment.

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