

What comes first: the ceramic or the preparation?

We are fortunate that we practice in an era where we have many different options for indirect restorations. With improvements in ceramic technology over the last 20 years, the age-old tradeoff between aesthetics and conservation no longer means that one ideal has to be sacrificed in order to achieve the other.

However the choice of different products is often bewildering to the clinician. The material to be used for a given clinical situation should be chosen before the preparation, not afterwards, so that the best balance can be struck between conservation and other properties.

This presentation will discuss the current marketplace – including the newly released crop of high-strength monolithic ceramic materials and the new hybrid resin-ceramics - and present an evidence-based rationale for selection of the material in different situations.

Learning Objectives

After the lecture, participants will have gained the following:

1. An understanding of current popular ceramic materials, and how they are produced.
2. Knowledge of preparation designs for different clinical situations.
3. How the production affects the materials' strength, optical properties and survival in the mouth.
4. An understanding of cement selection for restoration placement.



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Dr Christopher Orr graduated from the Queen's University of Belfast and has now become one of the UK's leading aesthetic and cosmetic dentists.

Dr Christopher Orr is a Past President and Accredited Member of the British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry and also a Certified Member of the European Society of Cosmetic Dentistry. He has lectured widely in the UK and internationally and runs a one-year course in cosmetic dentistry and aesthetic restorative dentistry for general dentists from his practice and teaching facility in central London.

He regularly travels abroad to attend and lecture at professional conferences. Chris has been an invited speaker at conferences as far apart as France, Italy, Turkey, Egypt, Malaysia, Singapore, Dubai, Argentina, Korea, USA, Canada and Kazakhstan, and many places in the UK. In May 2008, his lecture on "Aesthetic rehabilitation of the worn smile" was a sell-out at the annual conference of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry.

He is a judge for the FMC Private Dentistry Awards which recognise excellence in private dental practice and is also Chairman of the judging panel of the FMC Smile Awards, which recognise clinical excellence in creating beautiful smiles. He is also currently Chairman of Examiners for BACD's Accreditation examinations.