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Eight-unit Provisional Bridge Using Protemp 4 Temporization Materials at 27 Months

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Introduction

There are many challenges clinicians face when preparing provisional restorations. Among these challenges are strength, color stability, gingival health, utility, and overall patient comfort. Long-span temporary bridges can be particularly challenging. Usually, temporaries consisting of four or more units are useful as an esthetic replacement option during the interim treatment phase.

Description

Protemp 4 Temporization Materials (3M ESPE) is a two-component composite with a new generation of fillers for fabrication of interim restorations. It is indicated for temporization of single- and multiple-unit crowns, bridges, implants, inlays/onlays, and veneers, including long-term provisional restorations. This material is purported to have high strength and esthetics.

Case Presentation

An 84 year-old female presented with a six-unit PFM bridge, spanning teeth #6 through #11. Teeth #6 and #11 were abutments with #6 exhibiting excessive mobility and severe inflammation of the gingival tissues. Radiographs revealed the need for endodontic treatment on both abutment teeth. The poor prognosis of the abutment teeth #6 and #11 necessitated the inclusion of #5 and #12 as additional abutments. Subsequently, #5 through #12 were prepared for a porcelain-fused-to-zirconia bridge and temporized with **Protemp 4 Temporization Materials (3M ESPE)**, shade A2, and temporarily cemented with **Durelon (3M ESPE)**.

Case Follow-up

One week after cementing the eight-unit provisional bridge, the patient called the office and requested keeping the temporary bridge for a longer period of time because she liked it and it was very comfortable. The patient was recalled at three months, at which time it was noted that the tissues were healthy and the mobility of #6 had decreased substantially. Further recalls at six months, 12 months, and 18 months reconfirmed these findings. The patient was so pleased with the provisional bridge that she did not want to try the permanent bridge. The bridge became loose and required re-cementation at 24 months. Prior to re-cementating with **FujiCem Automix (GC America)**, minor stains were removed and the bridge was re-polished.

At 27 months (Figure 1), the provisional bridge had resisted fracture and exhibited excellent esthetics. The patient's gingival tissues were pink and healthy (Figure 2). The provisional had picked up only minor stain despite the patient being a heavy coffee and tea drinker (Figure 3). Additionally, the patient stated she had “no problems at all.” The bridge was “smooth to her tongue and easy to keep clean.” She further reported that there were no issues with eating or chewing (Figure 4).



Figure 1: Eight-unit bridge at 27 months



Figure 2: Gingival health of tissue in bridge area



Figure 3: Close-up of eight-unit bridge and tissues



Figure 4: Lingual view of eight-unit bridge

Conclusion

Protemp 4 Temporization Materials (3M ESPE) is a color-stable, fracture-resistant, comfortable provisional material for long-term as well as long-span temporaries.

Editors' Note: In July 2011, a one-year clinical performance study was completed on **Protemp 4 Temporization Materials** and it received a +++++ and a 96% clinical rating.

