The Importance of Using Your Resources

Useful Tips for Accreditation Case Type I

Mentors can be a valuable resource and help you to be more efficient in achieving your goals.

Figure 1: Model showing severely worn teeth.

Figure 2: Diagnostic wax-up on articulated models.

THE FIRST STEP in creating restorative excellence is to partner with a laboratory technician who shares your vision and criteria when designing a case. Although there are many talented laboratory technicians, candidates might wish to work with a technician who has already achieved Accreditation or is in the process. A list of laboratory technicians who are participating in the Accreditation program can be found in the Accreditation resources area on www.aacd.com, under “Case Participation Program.”

MENTORS CAN BE a valuable resource and help you to be more efficient in achieving your goals. Mentors are examiners that have been calibrated and have a keen understanding of the criteria to be evaluated in each case. By previewing potential cases prior to initiating treatment, you can avoid the frustrations of wasted time or compromised results.

FOLLOW THE Aacd Guide to Accreditation Criteria. This guide is full of extremely useful information to help you through the Accreditation process.1

READ RECENT ARTICLES on Case Type I, especially those in the Accreditation Essentials section of the jCD. Understanding the “Examiners’ Observations” (formerly called “Examiners’ Perspective”) will help you refine your own vision of excellence. Many previous issues are available for free on the AACD Web site.2,4

BE SURE THE gingival tissue is healthy prior to starting your Accreditation case. Evaluate the need for gingival contouring or crown lengthening.

PREDICTABILITY IN TREATMENT can come only with proper planning. Mounted diagnostic study models are key to understanding and designing a functionally esthetic result. This will help to visualize the anticipated contours of

James H. Peyton, DDS, FAACD
Illustration by Zach Turner
the restorations. Matrices can then be fabricated to use chairside to aid in preparation design; this will help to conserve maximal tooth structure and to create provisional restorations. These prototypes can then be tested and refined for esthetics and function directly in the patient’s mouth. A copy of these approved provisional restorations can serve as a guide for the laboratory technician in creating the best possible result (Figs 1 & 2).

**SCHEDULE FOR SUCCESS.** Allow plenty of clinical time to complete the procedure. It would be best to do on a day when other patients are not scheduled.

**MAKE A LIST** of what you want to accomplish during the clinical appointment and check off each item as you proceed. Checklists are the guardian of quality control and give you the best opportunity to succeed.

**PATIENT SELECTION IS** important. An apprehensive, demanding, hurried patient may affect your ability to achieve an excellent result. The patient should be completely “on board” with your pursuit of Accreditation, allowing you to do whatever is necessary and grant you as much time as needed.

**OUTSTANDING COMMUNICATION IS** essential to enable your technician to have a “virtual seat” chairside. Excellent photography and meticulous detail in illustration of color mapping to include your vision of shades, textures, translucencies, and contours will improve your chances in receiving restorations that meet the standards to which you aspire (Fig 3).3,4

**CONSIDER A “TRY-IN APPOINTMENT.”** There is no rule that the restorations have to be seated the first time they are received from the laboratory. Try in the restorations with the appropriate cement simulator and re-photograph the case with the same views that will later be used to critique the case and decide whether the case would benefit from additional “detailing” by the laboratory technician. If the answer is “yes,” simply replace or refabricate the provisional and return the complete case with the try-in images to the laboratory with a specific detailing list. Repeat the process at subsequent visits until your standards are met.

**References**


