

The Dilemma of Testing Adhesion

Dear Reader,

If you have looked into this issue, you may have wondered why one article alone almost takes up half of this issue No. 5, 2010. This is more than just an editorial decision to accept such a voluminous article. On the contrary, this was triggered by the *Journal of Adhesive Dentistry*. The editorial team thinks that it is the responsibility of a specialized journal to actively point to problems and hot topics within the speciality. Therefore, when we initiated the *Journal of Adhesive Dentistry*, we deliberately included the option of "Invited Article", which has publication priority, and as you can see in the heading, the paper Salz U, Bock T: "Testing Adhesion of Direct Restoratives to Dental Hard Tissue – A Review" is such an "Invited Article".

As editor-in-chief, I can see that there are many manuscripts with different or only slightly modified testing protocols to measure adhesion. If I compare the results, I find that most of the time they differ greatly from one another. This is certainly what researchers dealing with adhesion testing know as well. Years ago, on behalf of the *Journal of Adhesive Dentistry*, I wanted to set up a workshop with the objective of – after active discussion and maybe confrontation – having the leading scientists in adhesion testing coming together to formulate some recommendations on how to test. Of course, I had hoped that the scientific community would then have some guidelines or tool for producing more constant and reproducible

results. Obviously, my colleagues were not ready for such a meeting of minds and decided yes, to deal with adhesion, but no, not to implement the workshop idea. The result was a lecture symposium on that topic in the year 2009. However, I have not given up on the idea. That's why I asked one very experienced researcher and his co-worker, who have performed thousands of adhesion tests with different techniques, to formulate a review article outlining the problem in great detail and I am proud to present it in this issue of the *Journal of Adhesive Dentistry*.

This is only the first step, since the authors have restricted themselves to adhesion to tooth substrates. I hope that this article may prompt someone to do the same for adhesion to restorative materials, where partly the same, but mostly different problems must be solved. Then we might have enough data as a base for a discussion in a workshop environment to come up with solid recommendations for the scientific community.

Sincerely yours,



Jean-François Roulet
Editor-in-Chief