

The Benefits of Adhesion

I admit it: I am originally trained as a prosthodontist. Consequently, the farthest thing from my mind should be resin bonding and minimally invasive dental treatment options, correct? Well, to be honest, while I have been involved in researching and understanding adhesive bonding interfaces to various dental materials for over a decade, the complexity of dentin bonding was not my focus in my early professional life. What has, however, spurred my interest and created a new passion to learn and study these intricate interfaces to human tissues was my increasing dissatisfaction with what I would call “destructive dentistry”. Yes, I enjoy preparing teeth and fabricating beautiful crowns, but became increasingly disheartened over the years when I observed that many of our colleagues and students prefer the crown as a simple and logical treatment for almost any type of tooth destruction, no matter how large or small. They are intuitively following what I’d thought was the long-extinct “extension-for-prevention” concept and care more about a quick and supposedly worry-free solution to the complex needs of a carious or malformed tooth. And I don’t even blame them, as our insurance and educational systems seem to do little to promote the more demanding and financially less rewarding but utterly ethical and less invasive treatment options offered through the vast possibilities of modern adhesive dentistry. Full-coverage restorations are still needed, of course, in cases of severe tooth destruction. But they must be the last, not the first line of “defense” as they are the most damaging and traumatizing intervention a tooth can experience. I have seen and still see it so many times: first, a large amalgam or other restoration, and next, a full-coverage crown. Nothing in between or before. We owe it to our patients to provide them with a kind of treatment which ensures that they can keep their own natural teeth as long as possible. “But hey, there are always implants, right? And they are better than teeth anyway.” Don’t let me even go there...

It is such a relief to see what modern adhesive dentistry enables us to do in almost every dental specialty area – even fundamentally altering treatment concepts for full-coverage crowns through bonded indirect composite,

hybrid ceramic, and ceramic restorations and greatly minimized preparation guidelines. And I haven’t even mentioned the esthetically stunning and long-lasting results we can achieve with all-ceramic resin-bonded fixed partial dentures to replace missing teeth.

I understand that I am “preaching to the converted” and that you, as a reader of this esteemed journal, likely share the exact same sentiments and probably had your “epiphany” long before I came to my senses. I also understand that your focused work and thinking serves a great purpose and that you must be relentless, as there are so many factors working against you: insurance companies, industry, financial desires, etc. It is, therefore, even more important that we come together – through this journal, new media, and/or even in person – to support our common goals and push the boundaries of possibilities even further, through research, development, and innovation, but, ultimately, by providing outstanding and ethical clinical care.

It was not without a good amount of soul searching and doubt that I followed Professor Tagami’s suggestion to submit our application to host the 5th International Congress on Adhesive Dentistry (www.iad2013.com) on June 14 and 15, 2013) for the first time in the US, recognizing that the popularity of adhesive dentistry and its related science is not the greatest in the USA. However, we were willing to take that gamble and to help create a unique international forum that could promote our common goals, but even more so can function as a creative platform for clinicians, researchers, and the dental industry to focus on this exciting topic, define the state of the science, and discuss future clinical needs and developments in modern adhesive dentistry.

To give you an idea about the 5th IAD: the two intense conference days are structured by topics, starting with the history and current state of dental adhesion, followed by discussing its challenges and future. The afternoon of the first day will feature a scientific corporate forum, where industry leaders will discuss their latest innovations and developments. Day two will focus on adhesive restorative materials and treatment options, including updates on composite resin materials for direct restorations and on

indirect materials, such as dental ceramics. Adhesive dentistry in prosthodontics and endodontics will be addressed in the afternoon, covering topics such as endodontic posts and posterior inlays/onlays and culminating in a journey into laminate veneers from a world-class dental technician's point of view. Peer-reviewed scientific and clinical poster presentations pertaining to all aspects of adhesive dentistry will be open to all attendees during the course of the congress, and awards for the best posters will be presented at the conclusion of the meeting.

We are very proud of the top-level researchers and clinicians from around the globe who have agreed to share their latest work and provide magnificent cause for stimulating discussions. We wish we could have invited even more speakers, as some prominent figures in the world of dental adhesion may feel left out. But they are not – everyone is invited to contribute his/her knowledge and expertise to critically discuss the current state and future of dental adhesion.

It often seems unfair that even the most invigorating events have to come to an end, and the initial excitement gradually wears off. I am thrilled to share with you that, together with an international group involved in the leadership of the Journal of Adhesive Dentistry and the 5th IAD,

we have had some preliminary discussions about possible avenues to keep the momentum strong and to create a more permanent international scientific forum focusing on adhesive dentistry. Consequently, at the 5th IAD, we will be exploring the feasibility of a global organization and possibly make this the founding event of The International Academy for Adhesive Dentistry.

This, however, cannot be done without you. Join us as a founding member of the Academy or, at least, let us know your thoughts, through any means of modern or old-fashioned communication.

We are looking forward to seeing this group shaping the future of our beloved profession through the immense and constantly growing possibilities of modern adhesive dentistry.

Sincerely,



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