



Fall 2008

Special Points Of Interests

- Standard Care
- Strengthen Roots?
- The Improved Seal

So What's the Deal with Resilon?

GUTTA PERCHA OBTURATION THE STANDARD CARE:

Rightly or wrongly this is currently the standard of care. It is easy to work with. Biocompatible, has a long proven track record and it's economical to use. Modern warm compacted GP techniques are very effective. When combined with ZOE based or AH+ sealers GP obturation it presents a very strong anti-bacterial effect. The primary concerns are that it does not seal perfectly and is quite susceptible to coronal leakage if not restored adequately. The bonded obturation systems such as Resilon/Epiphany claim to prevent leakage and strengthen the tooth. Regardless of the obturation technique both systems are limited by our ability to debride and sterilize the root canal system prior to obturation.

STRENGTHEN ROOTS??:

This was one of the more bizarre claims. A paper by Teixeira et al, JOE Feb '05' it was "shown" that roots obturated with Resilon were stronger than those filled with GP. Basic common sense would argue that gluing a material with the consistency of a rubber band into the center of a tooth canal would be hard pressed to strengthen the root and in fact subsequent research has failed to support their findings (one of the authors of that original paper has a financial interest in Resilon—no bias there!). Basic engineering principles also would absolutely show that it is a physical impossibility to strengthen a root by such a technique. The claim for strengthened roots is totally without merit.

THE IMPROVED SEAL:

Great article here by Paque & Sirtes, IEJ, Vol 40: 722-729, 2007. In no uncertain terms they showed by testing 80 teeth filled either by Resilon/Epiphany or Gutta Percha (using both lateral and warm vertical techniques) that initially they sealed equally well but when tested again at 16 months the Resilon/Epiphany leaked significantly more than the GP filled canals regardless of the technique (lateral or warm vertical).

In the future newsletters we will talk about why the seal of Resilon simply can't exceed that of the gutta percha systems with a look at the problems of bonding into canals. We'll also address the impact of the antibacterial effects of ZOE based and AH+/AH26 sealers in comparison to that of Resilon/Epiphany.

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