

THE DENTAL ADVISORTM

"Improving Patient Care Through Research & Education"



Photography by Gloria G. Poy, R.N., D.A., Hartland, Michigan

The Cost of Dentistry

In the last several years, dentistry has experienced significant increases in overhead costs. New items such as digital technology and computerized operatories, as well as materials, handpieces, and guidelines for infection control have affected the bottom line.

This issue of THE DENTAL ADVISOR looks at many of the costs associated with select routine procedures, providing you with the ability to analyze your daily procedural costs and determine the best fees for your practice. Costs are provided for non-disposable and disposable items, as well as staff time and fixed costs. These costs were derived based on information from our clinical consultants, and the calculation of mean retail costs of representative products. Also included are *Product Suggestions* of highly rated products selected from THE DENTAL ADVISOR product evaluations and the 2007 Preferred Product List.

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June

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An Editors' Choice award is given to products recognized by our editors as being one of the most unique or significant products in an issue.

Ratings

Excellent	+++++
Very Good	++++
Good	+++

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Please send inquiries and address changes to: **THE DENTAL ADVISOR**,
3110 West Liberty, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Call: 800.347.1330 • 734.665.2020
Fax: 734.665.1648
Email: info@dentaladvisor.com
Website: www.dentaladvisor.com

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The Cost of Dentistry

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How to use this issue

It will take some personalization for you to maximize the benefits of this issue. Although the tables and examples listed are general and may not accurately reflect your practice, substituting your actual numbers will enable you to see your true costs. You will need to enter the salaries plus benefits of everyone involved in the procedure and then multiply that figure by the amount of time it takes you to do the procedure in your practice. These costs occur from the time the patient is seated until they are dismissed. Laboratory fees will need to be added for various procedures.

Estimated fees will vary depending on staff salaries, benefits, doctor’s hourly fee, and associated fixed costs, which are expenses connected with performing a procedure and completing treatment. The costs of several procedures are presented in the accompanying tables.

Staff Costs

Staff costs were calculated using 18% as the additional cost for benefits. For example, if a hygienist earned \$32.00/hour, then the hourly rate including benefits would be \$37.76/hour.

Position	Hourly Wage	Approximate Staff Benefits	Total Staff Wage/Hour
Doctor	\$250.00	18%	\$295.00
Hygienist	\$32.00	18%	\$37.76
Assistant	\$20.00	18%	\$23.60
Business Staff	\$25.00	18%	\$29.50

Fixed Costs

Fixed costs include rent (or mortgage), utilities, janitorial services, insurance, office expenses, and advertising, along with any other routine monthly costs that are not affected by the procedure being performed. Costs for specific instruments, software management programs, billing, equipment preferences (digital x-rays vs. traditional x-rays), technique preferences, and additional staff are not included.

To calculate the fixed cost per hour, determine your overhead without any lab fees, staff cost, and dental products. This number can then be divided by the number of hours worked in a year and then divided by the number of operatories. For example, if your fixed costs are \$250,000, you work 1,500 hours a year, and you have three operatories, then your fixed costs would be \$56.00/hour.

Seating a Patient (Table 1)

The costs associated with seating a patient are listed below. These costs include disposable and non-disposable items, and total **\$2.98**. The largest expenses in this category are the costs of gloves for the doctor and assistant and some of the listed barrier products.

Category	Description	Cost	Uses	Cost/patient
Non-disposables				
Barrier	Face shield (2 needed)	\$5.00	100	\$0.10
Bib Chain	Metal towel chains	\$3.49	1,000	\$0.01
Paper Towel Dispenser	Wall mount (2 needed)	\$50.99	2,000	\$0.05
Soap Dispenser	Wall mount (2 needed)	\$18.99	1,000	\$0.04
Disposables				
Antiseptic Gel Hand Cleaner	16 oz bottle (1/8 oz per patient)	\$16.79	1	\$0.07
Barrier Film Sheets	Bite; cover (500/box)	\$94.08	2	\$0.38
Disinfectant Wipe	Non-abrasive towelettes (160/package)	\$8.99	4	\$0.22
Face Mask	Earloop (50/box)	\$7.99	2	\$0.32
Gauze	2" x 2"; 4-ply (5,000/case)	\$66.99	12	\$0.16
Gloves – Assistant	Latex, powder-free (100/box)	\$9.25	3 pair	\$0.56
Gloves – Doctor	Latex, powder-free (100/box)	\$9.25	3 pair	\$0.56
Hand Soap	Lotion based formula (16 oz size bottle, 1/4 oz per patient)	\$16.29	1	\$0.25
Head Rest Cover	Clear plastic (250/box)	\$10.99	1	\$0.04
Paper Towel	10.25" x 12.75" white (2,400/box)	\$41.99	8	\$0.14
Patient Bib	13" x 19"; 3-ply (500/box)	\$23.99	1	\$0.05
Tray Cover	9.5" x 12.37"; white (1,000/box)	\$33.99	1	\$0.03
Total Cost of Seating a Patient				\$2.98

Product Suggestions

Antiseptic Gel Hand Cleaner

HurriSept Antiseptic Hand Gel
(Beutlich Pharmaceuticals)
4.5+/92% – November 2005

Soft T Cleanse (MEDICOM)
4.5+/92% – April 2007

Barrier – Face Shield



Vista-Tec (Polydentia SA)
5+/96% – December 2006

Gauze

SafeGauze (MEDICOM)
5+/96% – March 2007

Gloves

FreeForm SE (MICROFLEX)
4.5+/93% – March 2004

SafeTouch Examination Gloves
(MEDICOM)
4.5+/93% – April 2005



SilkCare Powder Free Latex Gloves (Cranberry USA)
4.5+/92% – December 2004

Product Suggestions

Articulating Foil

TrollFoil (TrollDental USA)
4+/88% – May 2007

Gauze

SafeGauze (MEDICOM)
5+/96% – March 2007

Handpiece – High-speed

Synea TA-96LW (A-dec/W&H)
5+/96% – June 2001

Handpiece – Slow-speed

Synea Slow-speed Handpiece
(A-dec/W&H)
5+/97% – June 2001

Topical Anesthetic



CaineTips (J. Morita USA)
4.5+/93% – January/February 2006



Cetacaine Liquid (Cetylite Industries)
5+/96% – May 2003

Basic Tray Setup (Table 2)

The costs associated with basic tray setup for a patient are listed below. These costs include disposable and non-disposable items, and have a total of **\$3.66**. The largest expenses in this category are the costs of anesthetic, use of slow- and high-speed handpieces, and air/water tips.

Category	Description	Cost	Uses	Cost/patient
Non-disposables				
Anesthetic Syringe	Metal	\$19.88	2,500	\$0.01
Articulating Paper Forceps	Metal	\$23.99	400	\$0.06
Color-coded Rings	Silicone rubber (50/package, 10 needed)	\$11.99	1,000	\$0.12
Explorer	Round handle	\$14.65	400	\$0.04
Handpiece – High-speed	Brushless motor	\$1,174.99	2,400	\$0.78
Handpiece – Slow-speed	Electric system	\$2,368.00	4,000	\$0.68
Instrument Mat	Autoclavable; white	\$7.29	1,000	\$0.01
Mouth Mirror Handle	Size #1 (2 needed)	\$13.29	1,000	\$0.03
Mouth Mirror Head	Front surface (12/box, 2 needed)	\$15.99	200	\$0.01
Pliers – Cotton	Heavy gauge	\$25.71	400	\$0.06
Instrument Tray	13.5" x 9.62" x 7/8"; plastic	\$9.49	1,000	\$0.01
Disposables				
Air/Water Tips	Disposable; plastic (150/box)	\$37.99	1	\$0.25
Anesthetic	4% articaine HCl with epinephrine (50/box)	\$36.99	1	\$0.74
Anesthetic Needle	27 gauge; plastic hub (100/box)	\$9.99	1	\$0.10
Articulating Paper	Blue (300 sheets/box)	\$12.99	1	\$0.04
Cotton Rolls	Medium #2; 100% cotton; 1 1/2" x 3/8" (2,000/box)	\$20.99	4	\$0.04
Cotton Tip Applicator	6" (1,000/box)	\$7.99	1	\$0.01
Dental Floss	18"; waxed (600'/package)	\$2.79	1	\$0.01
Gauze	2" x 2"; 4-ply (5,000/case)	\$66.99	12	\$0.16
Topical Anesthetic	Benzocaine with a disposable cotton swab (24/package)	\$11.99	1	\$0.50
Total Cost of Basic Tray Setup				\$3.66

Sterilization (Table 3)

The costs associated with sterilization for a basic tray setup are listed below. These costs include disposable and non-disposable items, and have a total of **\$3.67**. The largest expenses in this category are the costs of sterilization time, use of the autoclave, sterilization bags, disinfectant, and cold sterilization solution.

Category	Description	Cost	Uses	Cost/patient
Non-disposables				
Autoclave	11" x 18" chamber	\$5,920.00	30,000	\$0.20
Brush – Bur	Metal-bristle cleaning brush	\$6.29	500	\$0.01
Brush – Hand	Nylon-bristle cleaning brush	\$2.95	500	\$0.01
Garbage Can with Lid	10.5 gallons; hands-free; stainless steel	\$99.99	30,000	\$0.01
Gloves – Nitrile	Utility usage (3 pair/pack)	\$16.49	500	\$0.03
Paper Towel Dispenser	Wall mount (2 needed)	\$50.99	2,000	\$0.03
Sharps Container	Large 14 qt size; without container disposal	\$7.99	500	\$0.02
Soaking/Sterilization Tray	Stainless steel (3 needed)	\$32.99	1,000	\$0.10
Soap Dispenser	Wall mounted; touch-free	\$66.49	15,000	\$0.01
Spray Bottle	20 oz spray bottle	\$11.95	1,000	\$0.01
Ultrasonic Accessories Kit		\$331.95	15,000	\$0.02
Ultrasonic Unit		\$1,499.00	15,000	\$0.10
Disposables				
Autoclave Cleaner	32 oz bottle (use 1 oz/day)	\$30.99/\$0.97/day*		\$0.03
Biohazard Bags	1 gallon bags (200/box, use 1/day)	\$35.99/\$0.18/day*		\$0.01
Biological Monitoring Service	12/box (1 test/week)	\$121.49/\$2.02/day*		\$0.07
Cold Sterilization Solution	Gallon bottle (use 1 gallon/week)	\$38.49/\$7.70/day*		\$0.26
Disinfectant	Gallon bottle (use 1/8 oz/pt)	\$27.99/\$0.82/day*		\$0.03
Distilled Water	Gallon bottle (3 gallons/case, use 1 gallon/week)	\$8.29/\$0.55/day*		\$0.02
Gloves	Latex; powder-free (100/box, use 1 pair)	\$9.25/\$5.55/day*		\$0.19
Glutaraldehyde Test Strips	1.8% (66/box, use 1 strip/day)	\$62.29/\$0.94/day*		\$0.03
Hand Soap	16 oz bottle; soap insert for hands-free dispenser (1 ml/use)	\$11.29/\$0.72/day*		\$0.02
Paper Towel	10.25" x 12.75" white (2,400/box, 8/pt)	\$41.99/\$4.20/day*		\$0.14
Sterilization Bags	Small size 3 1/2" x 5 1/4" (200/package, 1/pt)	\$18.99/\$2.85/day*		\$0.09
Sterilization Bags	Medium size 5 1/4" x 12" (200/package, 1/pt)	\$24.99/\$3.75/day*		\$0.12
Sterilization Bags	Large size 8" x 12" (200/package, 1/pt)	\$37.99/\$5.70/day*		\$0.19
Ultrasonic Solution	32 oz bottle (use 1 oz/day)	\$26.99/\$0.84/day*		\$0.03
Cost of Sterilization Materials				\$1.78
Cost of assistant based on 5 minutes at \$23.60 per hour				\$1.89
Total Cost of Sterilization				\$3.67

Product Suggestions

Autoclave

M11 UltraClave (Midmark)
5+/96% – November 2004



Thermo Scientific PVdry2 Class B Sterilizer
(Thermo Fisher Scientific)
4.5+/94% – June 2007

STATIM 900 (SciCan)
5+/96% – November 2000

Biological Monitoring Service

PassPortPlus (SPSmedical Supply)
5+/96% – October 2000

Sterilization Bags

PeelVue (DUX Dental)
5+/96% – September 2004

Ultrasonic Unit

M550 Soniclean (Midmark)
5+/97% – September 2002

*The per day cost was based on an average of 30 patients (150 patients/week).

Product Suggestions

Gauze

SafeGauze (MEDICOM)
5+/96% – March 2007

Handpiece – Hygiene

AP-44 Prophy Air (A-dec/W&H)
5+/98% – June 2004

AP-64 Prophy Air (A-dec/W&H)
5+/96% – June 2004

KaVo PROPHYwiz (KaVo)
5+/98% – January/February 2006

Ultrasonic Unit – Scaler

Cavitron JET Plus
(DENTSPLY Professional)
4.5+/91% – April 2007



Cavitron Plus
(DENTSPLY Professional)
5+/98% – March 2007

Adult Hygiene Procedure (Table 4)

The costs associated with an adult hygiene procedure for a patient are listed below. These costs include disposable and non-disposable items, and total \$11.11. The largest expenses in this category are the costs of sterilization (Table 3) and seating a patient (Table 1), as well as the use of ultrasonic scaler and tips, air/water tips, and disposable prophy cup.

Category	Description	Cost	Uses	Cost/patient
Non-disposables				
Color-coded Rings	Silicone rubber (50/package, 18 needed)	\$11.99	1,000	\$0.01
Curettes	#2 handle (3 needed)	\$29.79	400	\$0.22
Dental Floss Dispenser	Metal	\$37.75	2,500	\$0.02
Explorer	#23 explorer	\$15.25	500	\$0.03
Handpiece – Hygiene	4-hole standard; up to 3,000 rpm; no coupler	\$614.99	2,500	\$0.25
Instrument Mat	Autoclavable; white	\$7.29	1,000	\$0.01
Instrument Tray	13.5" x 9.62" x 7/8"; plastic	\$9.49	1,000	\$0.01
Mouth Mirror Handle	Size #1	\$13.29	1,000	\$0.01
Mouth Mirror Head	Front surface (12/box)	\$15.99	200	\$0.01
Perio Probe	Single end	\$19.99	500	\$0.04
Pliers – Cotton	Heavy gauge	\$25.71	400	\$0.06
Scalers	#2 handle; 3/4; 30/33 (2 needed)	\$28.75	500	\$0.12
Ultrasonic Insert	30 kHz (2 or 3)	\$138.40	200	\$0.69
Ultrasonic Unit – Scaler	30 kHz	\$2,329.99	1,500	\$1.55
Disposables				
Air/Water Tips	Disposable; plastic (150/box)	\$37.99	1	\$0.25
Cotton Rolls	Medium #2; 100% cotton; 1 1/2" x 3/8" (2,000/box)	\$20.99	4	\$0.04
Dental Floss	18"; waxed (600'/package)	\$2.79	1	\$0.01
Face Mask	Earloop (50/box)	\$7.99	1	\$0.16
Gauze	2" x 2"; 4-ply (5,000/case)	\$66.99	12	\$0.16
Prophy Angle	Disposable prophy angle (144/box)	\$75.49	1	\$0.52
Prophy Paste	Assorted flavors; assorted grits (200/box)	\$45.99	1	\$0.23
Saliva Ejector	Plastic (100/box)	\$5.99	1	\$0.06
Cost of Hygiene Materials				\$4.46
Cost of Seating a Patient (Table 1)				\$2.98
Cost of Sterilization (Table 3)				\$3.67
Total Cost of an Adult Hygiene Procedure				\$11.11

Posterior Composite Restoration Procedure (Table 5)

The costs associated with a composite restoration procedure for a patient are listed below. These costs include disposable and non-disposable items, and total \$24.88. The biggest expenses in this category are the costs of sterilization (Table 3), the composite product, polishing cup, and basic tray setup.

Category	Description	Cost	Uses	Cost/patient
Non-disposables				
Bur Block	Carbide bur composite preparation kit	\$149.95	500	\$0.30
Condenser	1/2 Serrated	\$29.99	1,000	\$0.03
Finishing Bur (anatomical)	Diamond bur (5/package)	\$44.44	10	\$0.89
Finishing Bur (pointed)	Diamond bur (5/package)	\$44.44	10	\$0.89
Light Curing Unit	LED	\$1,199.00	2,500	\$0.48
Visible Light Shield	2.5" x 3.5"; oval	\$30.99	500	\$0.06
Disposables				
6 th -generation Bonding Agent	120 uses/system (1 use/patient)	\$185.00	1	\$1.54
Applicator Brush	Bendable (100/package)	\$12.99	2	\$0.26
Composite	106 uses/system (1 use/patient)	\$387.00	1	\$3.65
Matrix Band System	200/package	\$129.00	2	\$1.29
Polishing Cup	6/box	\$29.99	1	\$5.00
Wedge	Plastic (400/package)	\$35.99	2	\$0.18
Cost of Posterior Composite Materials				\$14.57
Cost of Basic Tray Setup (Table 2)				\$3.66
Cost of Seating a Patient (Table 1)				\$2.98
Cost of Sterilization (Table 3)				\$3.67
Total Cost of a Posterior Composite Procedure				\$24.88



Adbese
(Ivoclar Vivadent)



Clearfil PROTECT BOND
(Kuraray America)



Clearfil SE BOND
(Kuraray America)



bluephase 16i
(Ivoclar Vivadent)



G-Light
(GC America)



Super-Snap Singles
(Shofu)

Product Suggestions

Applicator Brush

Microbrush Tube Series – Disposable Applicators
(MICROBRUSH INTERNATIONAL)
5+/98% – May 2003

Bonding Agent – 6th-generation

1 Adbese (Ivoclar Vivadent)
5+/96% – November 2003

2 Clearfil PROTECT BOND
(Kuraray America)
5+/98% – October 2004

3 Clearfil SE BOND (Kuraray America)
4.5+/95% – October 2006

Xeno III Single Step Self-Etching Dental Adhesive (DENTSPLY Caulk)
5+/96% – October 2003

Light Curing Unit – LED

Allegro LED Light (Den-Mat)
4.5+/95% – April 2005

Avanté LED Curing Light
(Pentron Clinical Technologies)
4.5+/92% – June 2007

4 bluephase 16i (Ivoclar Vivadent)
5+/96% – December 2006

5 G-Light (GC America)
4.5+/92% – December 2005

radii plus (SDI)
4.5+/93% – April 2006

Matrix Band System

Composi-Tight Gold
(Garrison Dental Solutions)
5+/97% – March 2003

V-Ring (TrioDent)
4.5+/95% – December 2006

Polishing System – Composite

PDQ2 Single-Step Composite Polishing System (AXIS Dental)
4.5+/94% – June 2003

PoGo One-Step Diamond Micro Polisher (DENTSPLY Caulk)
4.5+/94% – March 2003

6 Super-Snap Singles (Shofu)
5+/96% – October 2002

The Cost of Dentistry

One-hour Adult Hygiene Visit without X-rays (Table 6)

The cost associated with a one-hour adult hygiene visit without x-rays for a patient is **\$150.37**. Staff time accounts for 55% of the cost and overhead accounts for 37% of the cost.

Category	Time	Rate, \$/hr x time/hr	Cost/visit
Business staff schedules appointment and checks patient out	10 min	\$29.50 x 0.16	\$4.72
Hygienist sets-up room, seats and treats patient	50 min	\$37.76 x 0.83	\$31.34
Doctor examines and consults with patient	10 min	\$295.00 x 0.16	\$47.20
Associated fixed costs	60 min	\$56.00 x 1.00	\$56.00
Cost of staff time and fixed costs			\$139.26
Cost of an Adult Hygiene Procedure (Table 4)			\$11.11
Total Cost of an One-Hour Adult Hygiene Visit without X-rays			\$150.37

Emergency Visit (Table 7)

The cost associated with an emergency visit for a patient is **\$82.13**. Staff time accounts for 70% of the cost and overhead accounts for 17% of the cost.

Category	Time	Rate, \$/hr x time/hr	Cost/visit
Business staff schedules appointment and checks patient out	10 min	\$29.50 x 0.16	\$4.72
Assistant sets-up operator, seats patient, cleans the operator	15 min	\$23.60 x 0.25	\$5.90
Doctor examines and consults with patient	10 min	\$295.00 x 0.16	\$47.20
Associated fixed costs	15 min	\$56.00 x 0.25	\$14.00
Cost of staff time and fixed costs			\$71.82
Cost of Seating a Patient (Table 1)			\$2.98
Cost of Basic Tray Setup (Table 2)			\$3.66
Cost of Sterilization (Table 3)			\$3.67
Total Cost of an Emergency Visit			\$82.13

Class II Composite Visit (Table 8)

The cost associated with a Class II composite visit for a patient is **\$160.85** as listed in Table 8. Staff time accounts for 67% of the cost and overhead accounts for 17% of the cost.

Category	Time	Rate, \$/hr x time/hr	Cost/visit
Business staff schedules appointment and checks patient out	10 min	\$29.50 x 0.16	\$4.72
Assistant sets-up operator, seats patient, cleans the operator	15 min	\$23.60 x 0.25	\$5.90
Doctor examines and treats patient	20 min	\$295.00 x 0.33	\$97.35
Associated fixed costs	30 min	\$56.00 x 0.50	\$28.00
Cost of staff time and fixed costs			\$135.97
Cost of a Posterior Composite Procedure (Table 5)			\$24.88
Total Cost of an Emergency Visit			\$160.85

Fractured Temporary

A temporary restoration is approximately \$8.25 plus the cost of the temporary cement at \$0.83. There is also the cost associated with patient seating, basic tray setup and sterilization of \$10.31. This cost of \$19.39 does not include the assistant's time of 15 minutes at \$23.60/hour, fixed overhead costs, business staff time, or the doctor's time if he/she needs to see the patient. The cost of re-cementing a temporary restoration is high.

Summary

It is important to routinely look at what the various procedures you offer in your practice cost in order to adequately establish your fees. Reviewing and revising your fees annually will keep your practice earning the needed income to meet growing overhead costs throughout the year. ■

Safe End Finishing Bur Kit + + + +

S.S. White Burs, Inc.
800.535.2877 • 732.905.1100
www.sswwhiteburs.com

Description

The **Safe End Finishing Bur Kit** consists of 10 friction-grip, carbide finishing burs. The safety tips and the length of the pointed taper burs make this set of burs useful for finishing subgingival composite margins, thereby minimizing damage to hard and soft tissue. The kit contains 10-fluted and 20-fluted carbides in five different sizes in a metal bur block. Twenty-five consultants evaluated the **Safe End Finishing Bur Kit** in over 700 clinical cases. This product received an 86% clinical rating.

Suggested Retail Cost
• \$79.99/kit

Product Features

The non-cutting tip of the **Safe End Finishing Bur Kit** allows for a nice finish of gingival margins. It is especially useful in removing excess composite in interproximal and cervical areas. Some finishing



Consultants' Comments

- ▶ "Good for finishing interproximal areas."
- ▶ "Great for smoothing cervical restorations and good for subgingival areas."
- ▶ "Thin tips enhance subgingival access."
- ▶ "After sterilization, the burs lose their sharpness."
- ▶ "The kit did not include all of the shapes I needed."

is necessary after using the 10-flute bur as it leaves a somewhat rough surface; the 20-flute bur leaves a smooth finish and may be utilized as a final step. The thin, blunted tips avoid gouging of soft tissue and cervical dentin. A number of consultants observed that after multiple uses the burs lose their cutting efficiency. Seventy-two percent of consultants rated **Safe End Finishing Bur Kit** equivalent to or better than the carbide finishing kit they were currently using. Thirty-six percent said they would switch to this kit, while 40% would recommend it.

Clinical Tips

- Only a small amount of pressure is necessary to remove excess composite.
- If used in an electric handpiece on a low setting, the bur is useful for removing composite overhangs. ■

ADA ANNUAL SESSION

THE DENTAL ADVISOR invites you to join us at the 148th ADA Annual Session in San Francisco, September 27-29, 2007. Visit us at booth #1437 for the unveiling of our new website and register to receive a **FREE 1-year online subscription!** Learn how to find clinical evaluations, customize comparative tables, and search our database! The new website will also include long-term clinical reports and research reports, access to archives of past issues, a manufacturer directory, and course listings for the Education Center. Stop by for complimentary copies of the latest issues, including Buyers' Guides and the 2007 Preferred Products issue. Learn more about our Biomaterials Research Center, our Education Center, and our exciting new plans for the future. We look forward to seeing you in San Francisco!

3M ESPE
800.634.2249
www.3MESPE.com

Description

3M ESPE Filtek Supreme Plus is a light-cured composite indicated for anterior and posterior direct restorations. The composite is filled 57-60% by volume with 5-20 nm particles and 60-140 nm pre-polymerized particle clusters. The composite is available in dentin, body, enamel, and translucent shades. All shades, except the translucent shades, are radiopaque. Shades may be layered for complex esthetic restorations, although body shades alone may provide adequate esthetics for posterior restorations. Curing time for 2-mm increments is 20 seconds for enamel, body and translucent shades and 40 seconds for dentin shades. **3M ESPE Filtek Supreme Plus** is available in 4-g syringes and 0.2-g unit-dose capsules in 35 shades. This product received a 94% rating for clinical performance at four years.

Clinical Evaluation Protocol

- 1,427 restorations have been placed during the past four years, as part of an ongoing clinical evaluation of **3M ESPE Filtek Supreme Plus**. Restorations are continuing to be placed.
- Various 5th-, 6th-, and 7th-generation bonding agents were used.
- 739 restorations in 424 patients were available for evaluation of clinical performance during the recall period (Figure 1).
- Of the restorations recalled, 25 were anterior and 714 were posterior, 62% of which involved one or two interproximal surfaces.
- Restorations were evaluated on a 1-5 rating scale: 1 = poor, 2 = fair, 3 = good, 4 = very good, 5 = excellent.

Clinical Observations

Resistance to Fracture/Chipping

Eighty-eight percent of restorations recalled showed no chips or fractures. Slight chipping occurred on 9% of the restorations, mainly at the marginal ridges of Class II restorations or at incisal edges of anterior restorations. These slight chips were either recontoured and polished or left untreated. Two percent of restorations showed moderate chipping that required a repair and 1% were fractured, requiring replacement.



Consultants' Comments

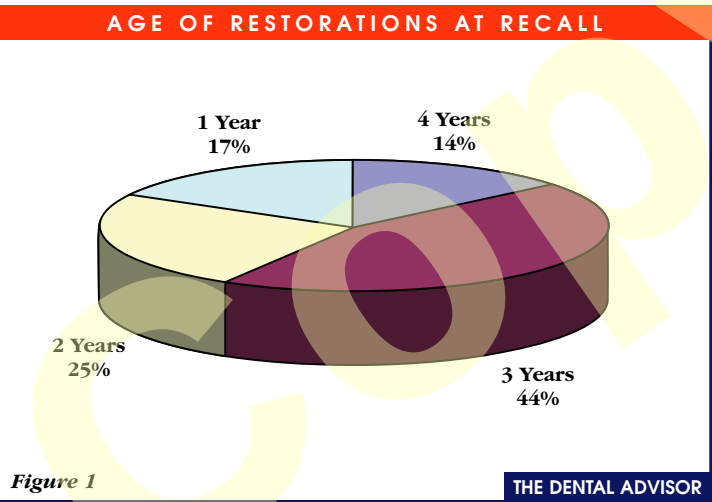
- ▶ "Surface texture is smoother at recall than at placement."
- ▶ "Excellent esthetics without layering."
- ▶ "Easy to place and sculpt."
- ▶ "When finishing Class II restorations, keep the marginal ridges thick to minimize future chipping."

Esthetics

The majority of **3M ESPE Filtek Supreme Plus** restorations (94%) were rated very good to excellent for esthetics, including shade match and blending with the tooth. Many were described as "invisible" or "undetectable." Some of the early restorations were noted to be slightly opaque or yellow. (See Editors' Note) Surfaces remained smooth with a high level of gloss.

Microleakage

Eighty-five percent of restorations exhibited no evidence of microleakage, which is visible as gray or black marginal discoloration. Mild staining was noted in 11% of restorations. The cases that exhibited mild to moderate staining at the margins were independent of the type of bonding system used. Two restorations were replaced due to suspected bond failure.



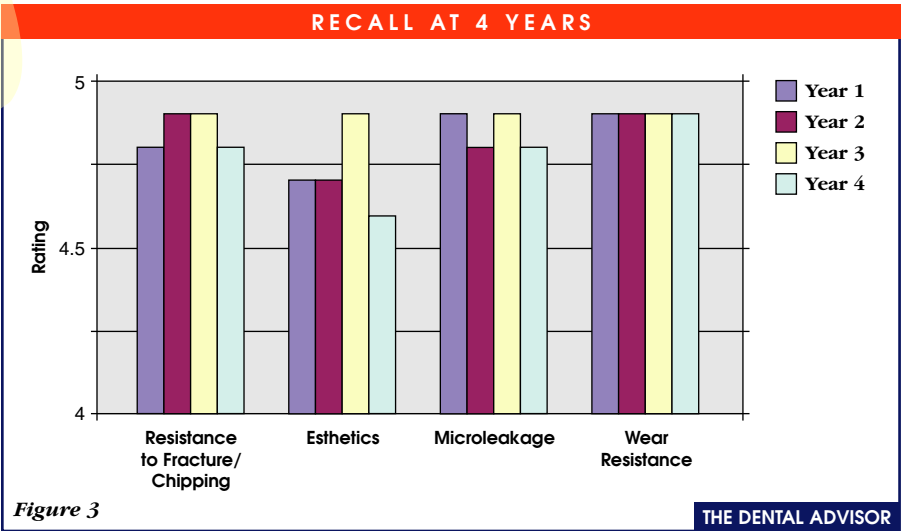
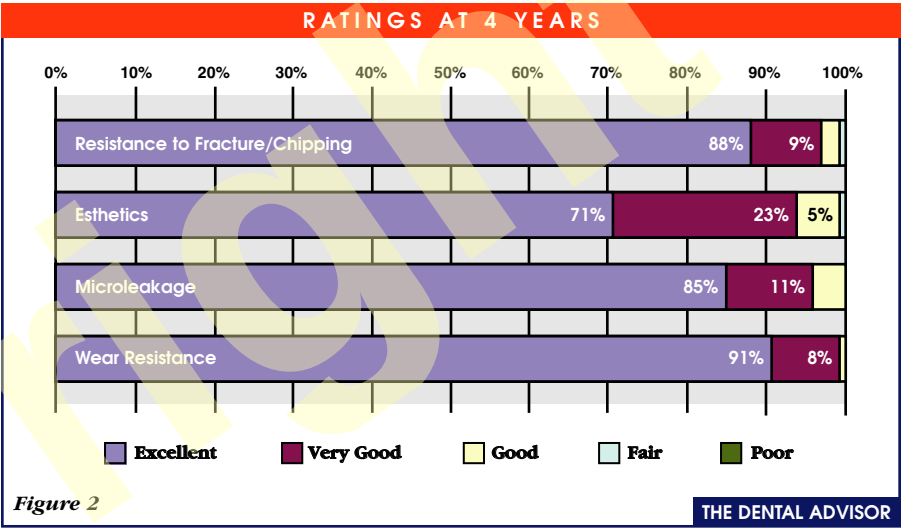
Wear Resistance

3M ESPE Filtek Supreme Plus provides very good wear resistance. Ninety-one percent of restorations received ratings of excellent, with no visible signs of wear. Occlusal anatomy and continuity with the tooth surface were well maintained. Less than 1% of restorations were observed to have moderate wear.

Summary

At four years, **3M ESPE Filtek Supreme Plus** received ratings of 96% for resistance to fracture/chipping, 92% for esthetics, 96% for microleakage, and 98% for wear resistance. ■

Editors' Note: 3M ESPE Filtek Supreme Plus has the same chemistry and properties as the original Filtek Supreme with enhanced shades and a greater number of shades.



SENIOR CLINICAL
CONSULTANTS

E. Alpert, CT
R. Anthony, OH
K. Baker, TX
R. Ciccone, MI
P. Esmond, NY
M. Evans, TN
R. Fisher, OH
G. Franco, NY
P. Grandsire, NY
K. Hamlett, TX
G. Hart, OH
R. Kaprielian, NJ
E. Katkow, MD
L. Katkow, MD
C. Kehr, MI
E. Maitland, NJ
E. Mosso, PA
G. Mosso, PA
D. Peterson, MD
V. Plaisted, NY
W. Powell, TX
G. Poy, MI
G. Sayre, TX
K. Schwartz, FL
B. Shumaker, NJ
B. Sims, NY
A.M. Thompson, NY
R. Trushkowsky, NY
L. Wee, MI

CLINICAL CONSULTANTS

A. Abate, MI
M. Aksu, MI
A. Albright, NY
A. Alexander, PA
J. Allen, MI
J. Amara, CT
S. Anderson, MI
R.M. Arnett, MI
R. Averbach, CO
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F. Berman, PA
M. Beyramian, MI
L. Bishop, MI
J. Bostic, OH
D. Bowen, MI
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L. Feldman, NJ
J. Fine, NJ

Aegis Crown & Bridge Cement + + + +

Harry J. Bosworth Co.
800.323.4352 • 847.679.3400
www.bosworth.com

Description

Aegis Crown & Bridge Cement is a two-paste, modified-resin polymer, permanent luting cement. It contains amorphous calcium phosphate (ACP) filler, which the manufacturer reports to slowly release calcium and phosphate ions to enhance remineralization of the tooth. The cement is indicated for cementation of crowns, bridges, inlays, onlays, and veneers. **Aegis Crown & Bridge Cement** is provided in a dual-barrel syringe with auto-mix tips and is dual-cured. The working time is three to five minutes with a chemical cure time of six minutes. It is available in shades B1, A2, and C1. The kit contains two, 7-ml syringes of cement; 6 ml of *Aqua Bond*; 6 ml of *Dentin Resin*; and the necessary accessories. The cement requires refrigeration and should be brought to room temperature before use.

Twenty-three consultants used **Aegis Crown & Bridge Cement** for 222 clinical applications. This product received an 86% clinical rating.

Suggested Retail Cost
• \$225.00/kit

Product Features

The package of **Aegis Crown & Bridge Cement** contains all the materials needed for cementation of indirect restorations. The mixing tips attach smoothly to the two-paste syringe and the cement extrudes easily directly into the restoration. Application of *Aqua Bond* and the *Dentin Resin* was the most-often-used option for the cementation procedure. The dispensed cement has a smooth consistency with no slumping but exhibits flow when pressure is applied, resulting in the complete seating



Consultants' Comments

- ▶ "ACP is great for high-carries-risk patients."
- ▶ "Too many steps for the cementation when using the Aqua Bond and the Dentin Resin."
- ▶ "Cleanup of excess is a breeze."
- ▶ "Cement viscosity is very good – stays where you put it."
- ▶ "Include silane in the kit."

of the restoration. The working time is more than adequate, but the chemical cure time was noted to be somewhat slow. Removal of the excess is easily accomplished after using a curing light to snap set the cement at the margins. No restorations were lost due to retention during the evaluation period. Some consultants commented favorably on the lack of postoperative sensitivity. Sixty-eight percent

of consultants rated **Aegis Crown & Bridge Cement** equal to or better than the resin cement they were currently using, 43% would switch, and 70% would recommend it.

Clinical Tips

- Two options are available for the cementation procedure:
 - Acid etch the tooth with 35% phosphoric acid and cement the restoration.
 - Apply two coats of *Aqua Bond* to the tooth surface, followed by two coats of the *Dentin Resin*, and then cement the restoration.
- **Aegis Crown & Bridge Cement** is compatible with 6th-generation (Type I) bonding agents (self-etching primer with separate adhesive). ■

OptraFine + + + + 1/2

Ivoclar Vivadent, Inc.
800.533.6825 • 716.691.0010
www.ivoclarvivadent.us.com

Description

OptraFine is a polishing system developed for use with ceramic/porcelain materials including CAD/CAM restorations. The system includes rubberized, diamond-impregnated polishers; nylon brushes; and diamond-infused polishing paste. **OptraFine F** finishers (light blue) are used with water to smooth the surface of the restoration. **OptraFine P** polishers (dark blue) are used with water to polish the surface. **OptraFine HP** high polishing brushes and paste are used without water to obtain a high gloss. The finishers and polishers are available in three shapes: flame, cup, and disc. The latch-type instruments can be used intra- or extra-orally in a slow-speed handpiece at rotary speed of 10,000-15,000 rpm. All **OptraFine** instruments can be autoclaved and reused up to 10 times. The kit evaluated includes six **OptraFine F**, six **OptraFine P**, six **OptraFine HP** brushes, and a 1-ml syringe of **OptraFine HP** polishing paste. Thirty consultants



Consultants' Comments

- ▶ "Smooth final polish, but not glossy."
- ▶ "Extremely durable after repeated uses."
- ▶ "The brushes polish fine grooves well."
- ▶ "Place in an autoclavable bur block to keep all components together."
- ▶ "Change the color of the blue rubber points to intensify the difference between the finishers and polishers."

evaluated the **OptraFine** system in over 300 uses. This product received a 95% clinical rating.

Suggested Retail Cost
• \$127.00/kit
• \$31.00/polishing paste refill

Product Features

OptraFine polishing system is easy to use with clear instructions and excellent shapes. Consultants found the final polish to be very good. The time required to achieve the desired polish is equivalent to similar intraoral systems. All three shapes are flexible and adaptable to tooth anatomy, allowing access to most areas. All consultants found the **OptraFine** system very durable after repeated sterilization and multiple uses; although four consultants experienced breakage with one or two of the polishers. Sixty-seven percent of consultants found **OptraFine** equivalent

to or better than their current polishing system. Sixty percent would switch to **OptraFine**, and 80% would recommend the system to a colleague. ■

GrandiO Seal + + + + 1/2

VOCO GmbH
888.658.2584
www.vocoamerica.com

Description

GrandiO Seal is a light-cured, nano-filled, pit and fissure sealant. The sealant is designed to provide good flowability for deep penetration of pits and fissures and to have strong enamel bonding. Wear resistance is obtained through a high filler particle load of 70% by weight. **GrandiO Seal** comes in a white shade and should be applied in a dry field. Each kit contains one syringe of 34.5% phosphoric acid etching gel with ten long placement tips, and five, 1.8-g syringes of sealant with disposable

placement tips. Curing time is 15-30 seconds with a halogen or LED light. **GrandiO Seal** was evaluated by 26 clinical consultants in over 570 applications. This product received a 92% clinical rating.

Suggested Retail Cost
• \$133.95/kit

Product Features

The packaging and instructions for use of **GrandiO Seal** were ranked highly by consultants. The sealant is easy to dispense and apply. The low viscosity material flows well into pits and fissures. Simplicity of adjustment and identification of the material on the teeth was also received very favorably. The white

color of the sealant is distinct on natural teeth. The long etchant tip provided in the kit has the appearance of an anesthetic needle and caused a negative response from some patients. Seventy-seven percent of consultants rated **GrandiO Seal** equivalent to or better than their current product, and 95% percent would recommend it to colleagues. ■



Consultants' Comments

- ▶ "This system is very easy to use."
- ▶ "Low viscosity sealant flows well into pits and fissures."
- ▶ "Use narrower tips for sealant application for more precise placement."
- ▶ "The kit should include disposable etchant tips."

Editors' Note: Smaller disposable tips for the etchant are available as a separate refill pack

CLINICAL CONSULTANTS

K. Fischer, IN
S. Galster, ND
D. Garber, CA
R. Gardner, MI
N. Garlisi, OH
L. Gee, OK
A. Giovanardi, MI
B. Goldsmith, NY
I. Goldstein, NJ
K. Goodman, MI
S. Graber, IL
A. Gray, MI
W. Gregory, MI
D. Griggs, OH
P. Gronet, GA
J. Grover, MI
B. Gursky, MI
E. Gutman, NY
D. Haas, Canada
H. Hamerink, MI
S. Harden, GA
A. Herrero, MI
B. Herrmann, CA
R. Hervig, KS
M. Hewko, OH
J. Heys, MI
S. Hoekman, MI
S. Hondrum, GA
J. Hoste, MI
M. Hovel, WI
S. Hutt, NJ
P. Indianer, MI
G. Isaacson, NJ
S. Isaacson, NJ
J. Jacobs, NY
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D. Juliani, MI
C. Kamin, OH
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D. Kaplan, NY
M. Kastner, OH
S. Kelly, OH
D. Keren, NY
J. Kim, NY
B. Klym, MI
J. Kostohryz, TX
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M. Kruscke, MI
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M. Livernois, SC
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M. Man, NY
B. Manne, FL
N. Mansour, MI
N. Markarian, CA
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M. Mason, NY
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W. Mason, MI
J. Mayer, OH
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J. McLaren, MI
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J. Mikesell, IL
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S. Miller, NV
R. Mizrahi, NY
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D. Montgomery, CA
P. Moratto, MD
M. Morin, MI
S. Munro, WI
W. Nagy, TX
J. Nash, MI
A. Nazarian, MI
N. Nealis, IL
L. Neuberger, ND
C.J. Noe, MD
P. Nolan, MI

DEXIS, LLC
888.883.3947 • 888.88.DEXIS
www.dexis.com

Description

DEXIS Digital X-ray System components include the DEXIS sensor with PC card, software, a complete set of sensor holders, and accessories. Onsite training is included as well as a printed instruction manual, CD tutorials, and a quick reference guide for the operator.

Options for running the system range from use with a portable laptop computer to a fully interfaced network. *Integrator™* software is available for seamless integration and image display with all major practice management systems, including *Dentrix*, *Eaglesoft*, *Easy Dental*, *Practiceworks*, and *Softdent*. The software is capable of managing all intraoral and extraoral digital x-rays and photographs. The **DEXIS PerfectSize™** sensor's dimensions are 38 x 28 x 8 mm. The casing has beveled corners and rounded edges with the cable connection located on the backside of the sensor, rather than on the end of the housing.

The DEXIS software provides image capture and storage plus enhancements such as *ClearVu™* which enhances the image's contrast ratios through clinical algorithms leading to a clearly defined radiograph, and tools such as measure, notes, spotlight, zoom, and many others.

The system evaluated includes:

- Laptop computer with DEXIS software installed
- One *DEXIS PerfectSize* sensor with PC card
- Printed manual, Quick Reference Guide, audiovisual tutorials, and instructions on CD
- Sensor sheaths and accessories
- *PositionIt™* kit with 12 assorted sensor holders

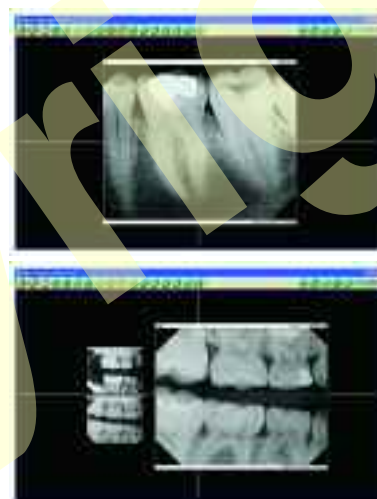
DEXIS Digital X-ray System was used by 10 consultants during a six-month evaluation period. This product received a 95% clinical rating.

Suggested Retail Cost

- \$13,995/system

Product Features

The **DEXIS Digital X-ray System** was evaluated as a stand-alone system, with images being saved locally on a portable laptop rather than networked with the consultants' practice management software. When used in this configuration, it is possible to export the DEXIS images from the laptop and import them to other computers as desired. The DEXIS instructor provided excellent in-office training, and the *Quick Reference Guides* were helpful reminders for common operations performed. The **DEXIS PerfectSize** sensor is similar to a size 1 film and is acceptable for most applications. The sensor size was only challenging on young children where a size-0 film or sensor would normally be chosen and for obtaining images of extremely long roots of canines and second molars.



ClearVu™ enhancement supports the dental professional in clinical findings

Multiple display options allow the clinician to view images over a wide range of dates

As they gained experience with placing the sensor, consultants felt that the one size was adequate in most situations.

The location of the cable on the backside of the sensor allows placement in either a horizontal or vertical orientation. The beveled edges contribute to patient comfort. DEXIS software includes single-click formats for bitewing and full-mouth series, which enhances efficiency by automatically guiding the user through the series and assigning tooth numbers to individual images. Images can be viewed according to area of the mouth or in chronological order. The *ClearVu* feature automatically enhances the image and was routinely used for viewing and diagnosis. Basic image enhancements were easy to accomplish with the on-screen icons and the *Quick Reference Guide*.

One hundred percent of consultants rated the **DEXIS Digital X-ray System** better than traditional film for intraoral x-rays and all would recommend it.

Clinical Tips

- Keep a copy of the *Quick Reference Guide* in each operatory.
- Use a finger cot as an additional barrier over the sensor and sheath. It provides a snug fit and easier use of the sensor holders.
- Take care when inserting the PC card into the computer.
- To avoid damage, do not drop the sensor or kink the cable. ■

CLINICAL CONSULTANTS

E. Odenweller, OH
R. Oshrain, NY
J. Paris, TX
D. Parris, GA
D. Parsons, NY
M. Patel, MI
T. Paumier, OH
L. Perratto, NY
S. Picazio, NJ
T. Pieper, WY
D. Pietz, NC
W. Piskorski, MI
D. Pitak, MI
S. Pomerance, MI
D. Powers, MI
L. Pozarny, NY
C. Price, TX
D. Qualliotine, NC
G. Raichelson, Canada
C. Ramsey, FL
S. Ratner, NY
R. Reichl, GA
G. Reskakis, NY
C. Rice, MA
A. Ridall, TX
J. Riggs, MI
M. Rogers, PA
W. Roper, TX
F. Ross, WI
K. Ross, MI
K. Rowan, MO
R. Sambuchi, MI
P. Sandvick, WI
D. Schimmel, PA
G. Schultz, PA
J. Sedlock, WI
M. Shapiro, MI
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J. Sinkwits, NY
R. Smith, NY
S. Smith, FL
M. Sonne, MI
J. Spingarn, FL
S. Steedman, WA
R. Stevenson, MI
W. Stevenson, MI
K. Stoffers, MI
D. Stutman, NY
K. Swearingen, OH
M. Sylvester, CA
P. Symeonides, NY
J. Tabash, MO
H. Tetelman, OH
F. Tom, MA
R. Tonelli, WI
G. Trompeter, MI
C. Trubschenck, CA
P. Tu, CA
S. Ura, NH
J. Utess, MI
H. Vann, MS
J. Van Tiem, MI
W. Walcott, MI
L. Walsh, MI
M. Waranowicz, MI
M. Warshanna, MD
R. Wilkie, MI
S. Williams, MO
R.G. Willis, SC
K. Wilson, MI
R. Wolf, IN
F. Wood, PA
P. Yaman, MI
H. Yeung, CA
D. Young, MI
S. Young, NY
M. Zahn, MI
J. Zanetti, MI
P. Zanetti, MI
G. Zann, FL
S. Zimmer, MI

LABORATORY CONSULTANTS

Alpha Dental Studio, MI
Nellmar Laboratory, LLC, MI

Enamel Pro + + + +

Premier Dental Products Co.
888.670.6100 • 610.239.6000
www.premusa.com

Description

Enamel Pro is a 1.23% fluoride prophyl paste that is formulated to deliver amorphous calcium phosphate (ACP). The ACP reportedly remineralizes tooth enamel by incorporating calcium and phosphate into the enamel. The paste is available in four flavors (cinnamon, grape, mint and strawberry) and four grits (fine, medium, coarse, and extra coarse mint). It is also available without fluoride in a coarse grit with mint flavor. **Enamel Pro** is packaged in boxes of 200 prophyl cups and two *Comfy-Grip* prophyl cup holders.

Thirty clinical consultants used **Enamel Pro** in over 1600 applications. This product received an 88% clinical rating.

Suggested Retail Cost

- \$46.00/200-count box

Product Features

Enamel Pro is a good prophyl paste with flavors and aroma patients liked. Each cup contains more than enough paste for a routine prophylaxis. Many patients and consultants commented on the smoothness of the paste and how smooth their teeth felt after use. The ACP formula was listed as a benefit by the majority of consultants, although some would like to see additional research on the effectiveness of ACP.

Consultants liked the included *Comfy-Grip*, noting that the prophyl cup was securely held for easy access. The overall stain removal and polishing are adequate. One-third of the consultants noted an increase in splattering and difficulty in completely

rinsing away the prophyl paste. Sixty-nine percent of consultants reported that **Enamel Pro** was equal to or better than their current prophyl paste, 65% would switch and 72% would recommend it to a colleague. ■



Consultants' Comments

- ▶ "The taste and scent were pleasing to my patients."
- ▶ "My patients liked how smooth their teeth felt after treatment."
- ▶ "I like that it has ACP."
- ▶ "It splatters more than some other prophyl pastes."
- ▶ "The paste is hard to completely rinse off of the teeth."
- ▶ "Add an extra-fine grit for use with veneers and indirect composite restorations."

Thermo Fisher Scientific

800.446.6060 • 563.556.2241

www.barnsteadthermolyne.com • www.thermo.com

Description

The **Thermo Scientific PVdry2 Class B Sterilizer** is a pre- and post-vacuum steam sterilizer designed to ensure maximum steam penetration with a vacuum drying process which leads to sterile, dry instruments at the end of the sterilization cycle. In the pre-vacuum phase, cold air pockets are eliminated in the chamber before steam is introduced; then during the cycle, an audible vacuum pump pulses steam through the chamber by building pressure and then pulling a vacuum to perfuse steam through the chamber contents. In the post-vacuum phase, the steam is aggressively removed, drying packages to prevent microbial contamination that can occur from wet pouch wicking. A HEPA filter and sealed door are also utilized to ensure sterile drying. As a standard feature, the **PVdry2** has a non-recirculating water system to keep the fresh water and wastewater separate. The optional **Harvey DI+** is a water supply system that connects directly to the tap water supply, converting incoming water to deionized water and automatically fills and drains the **PVdry2** eliminating the need for distilled water purchase and storage. The countertop unit has a 25.4 x 38.8 cm (10" x 15.5") chamber to accommodate large surgical cassettes. Each unit comes with a **CycleStor** USB flash drive to store and log cycle information to meet documentation recommendations. Four preset cycles include unwrapped, wrapped, towel packs, and handpieces. The unwrapped cycle takes 40 minutes to complete, including drying; and the wrapped cycle takes 50 minutes to complete, including drying. The cycle parameters can be adjusted in the lab mode. Accessories provided with the sterilizer include a multipurpose tray rack, cassette rack, and three trays. Twelve consultants evaluated **PVdry2** during a three-month period. This product received a 94% clinical rating.



Suggested Retail Cost

- \$7,748/sterilizer
- \$508.00/*Harvey DI+* water deionizer

Equipment Features

The **PVdry2** is very easy to operate with excellent access to controls and a clear display. Water automatically filling from the optional **Harvey DI+** is convenient, and the unit is easy to drain due to the drain ports on the front and rear. The chamber size is efficient for most offices. (Please consult your owner's manual on the weight that can be loaded into the chamber). The metal rack is versatile as it accommodates three large instrument cassettes placed vertically or six standard trays inserted horizontally. Some consultants found loading and unloading the cassettes challenging because the rack rotates, and there is little space between trays. The cycle times are appropriate, producing dry instruments. The drain connector is located in the front of the unit, ensuring easy access when disposing of wastewater. None of the disposable filters in the **PVdry2** or the **Harvey DI+** needed to be changed during the evaluation period. The unit will tell the operator when to change the water purification cartridge. **CycleStor** was perceived as an excellent feature as it was easy to use and allowed one to download critical diagnostics. All consultants recommended a reduction in the noise level during operation. One hundred percent of consultants reported **PVdry2** was easier to operate and produced drier instruments than their current sterilizers. Seventy five percent would purchase and recommend **PVdry2** to their colleagues. ■

Consultants' Comments

- ▶ "Amazingly dry instruments."
- ▶ "I appreciated not having to refill the water daily. The self-contained water system is very convenient."
- ▶ "CycleStor is an excellent feature that will ensure we have the correct information for future repairs."
- ▶ "Design a lock for the metal tray to prevent rotation during loading and unloading of the instruments."
- ▶ "Reduce the noise level of the unit during sterilization."

Correction

An error occurred in the May 2007 issue of THE DENTAL ADVISOR affecting all occurrences of the word "usa". The correct information as it should have appeared is J. Morita USA (pages 3 and 6), Komet USA (page 6), TrollDental USA (page 10), and VOCO GmbH – www.voco.com/usa (page 14)