

NEW PRODUCT

review

OPTIPOST SYSTEM (Brasseler USA)



by
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Modern dentistry offers us a wide range of materials and techniques for restoring endodontically treated teeth. However, according to literature reports, there is no difference between the mechanical properties of vital versus non-vital dentin. In other words, endodontically treated teeth are *not* more brittle and fracture-prone than intact, sound teeth. A number of studies report more failure in teeth with posts and cores than in teeth without posts and cores. In truth, devitalized teeth only become weaker if lack of strong, unbroken tooth structure is present due to caries, fracture or excessive operative-related structure removal. Thus, the claim for using a post for reinforcement reasons is fallacious and nothing but a myth passed on to us as a saga from previous generations. Since bonded restorations restore the tooth up to 100% of its original strength, there is

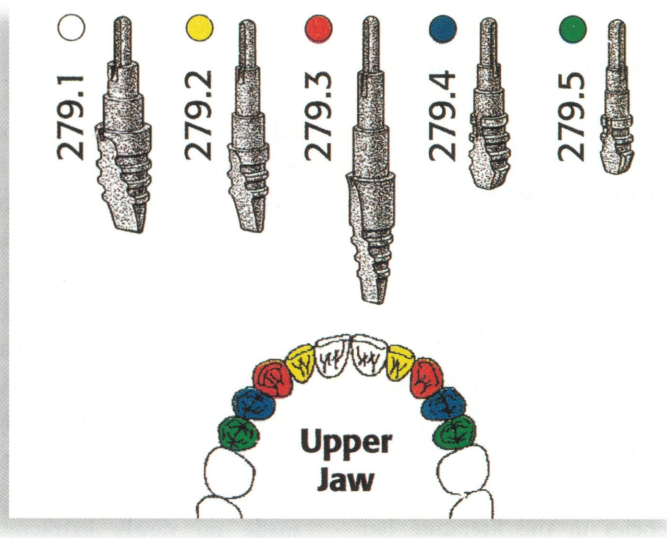


Figure 2

really no reason for removing internal tooth structure for placement of large posts. Therefore, when is there a need for posts? Basically, what should dictate whether or not to utilize a post intra-canal is the amount of remaining sound coronal tooth structure and when retention of the coronal build-up cannot be achieved by adhesive procedures.

There is a myriad of options to choose from among the currently available post systems. The need for ultimate light transmission through a metal-free crown restoration calls for systems such as fiber-reinforced direct composite post and cores (Ribbond; Ribbond; Connect, Kerr; GlasSpan, Ribbond; GlasSpan; Splint-It, Jeneric/Pentron) and the recently introduced zirconium dioxide posts (Cosmopost, Ivoclar North America, Cerapost, Brasseler USA). If a cast metal or a ceramometal crown restoration is to be performed, traditional cast posts are still a viable technique that seems to be losing its advocates mostly because of the clinical and laboratory costs involved, in addition to requiring two appointments. The other metal alternatives are the prefabricated posts which have become the preferred choice among clinicians for many a reason. Most systems currently available come in various shapes and sizes allowing for an effective, time-saving, chairside procedure.

One such post system is the OptiPost System by Brasseler USA. It is a prefabricated post system for use on coronally destroyed teeth (Figure 1). This system combines custom drills and "tooth specific" anatomically pre-shaped sand-blasted titanium posts to allow the clinician to provide a custom prefabricated post according to each specific need.

TOOTH SPECIFIC

The posts are individually sized according to the shape and size of the coronal and radicular portion of maxillary and mandibular incisors, canines and premolars. The coronal portion of each OptiPost is anatomically pre-shaped to reduce the amount of core

build-up and to provide for better distribution of bite and shear forces.

TELESCOPE DESIGN

The radicular portion of the OptiPost is a telescope or stair-step design, combining the strengths of both parallel

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A color-coded system of sized posts and drills, keyed to the typical anatomy of teeth to be restored, ensures correct selection.

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SPECIAL OFFER: Place three posts from the OptiPost kit, if you're not completely satisfied, return the remainder of the system for full credit.



Figure 3

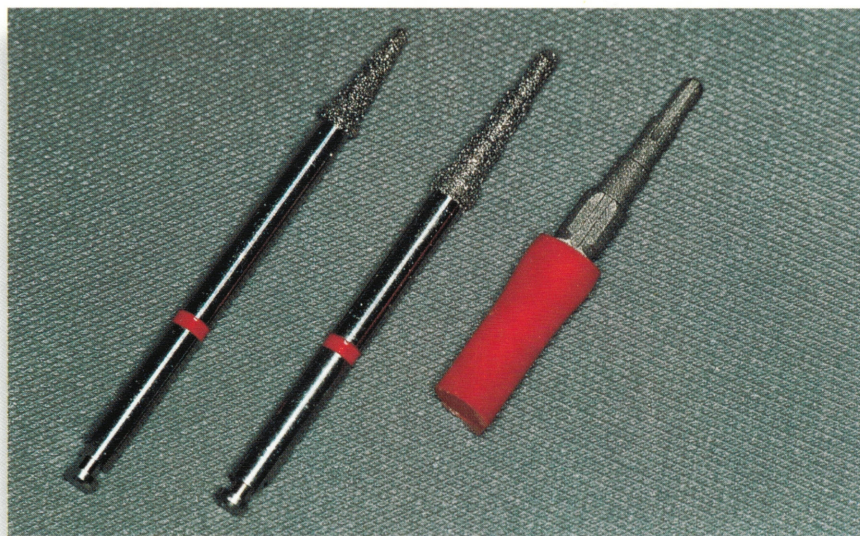


Figure 4

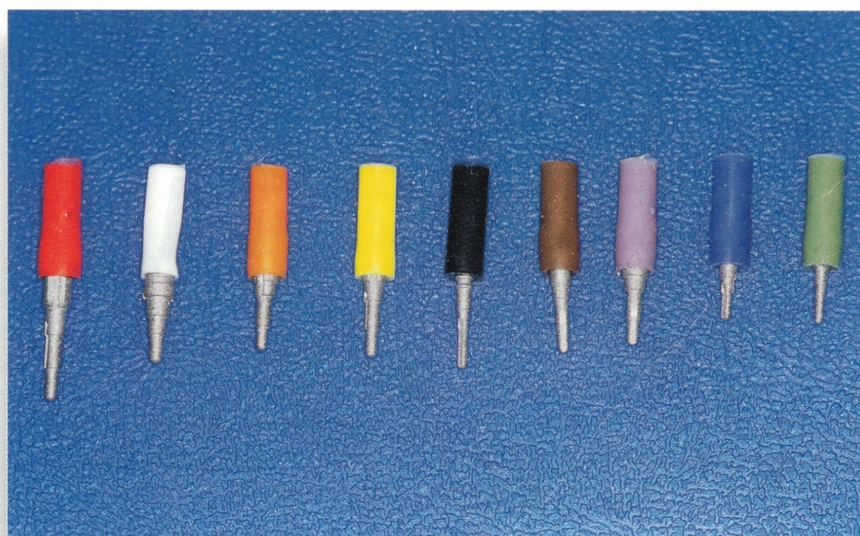


Figure 5

and tapered post systems. Parallel walls provide enhanced retention due to mechanical friction while the overall tapering is virtually customized to follow the true anatomical morphology of a root canal. As a result, OptiPost is supposed to offer improved retention and better distribution of loading forces, with less removal of critical natural root structure at the apical 1/3 of the canal. Due to its telescopic design, the radicular portion of the post is expected to better distribute compressive and lateral forces equally on the root thus minimizing probability of fracture.

THE SYSTEM

The OptiPost System is available as a color-coded system of drills and posts (Figures 2, 3 & 4). Each post is protected by an autoclavable, color-coded cover according to the post size for immediate identification (Figure 5). The complete kit (\$425 list price) features one each of all six pre-drills, one each of all nine placement drills, three each of all nine posts, plus two sterilization blocks — all delivered in a plastic tackle box (Figure 6). The starter kit (\$219.95 list price) combines an assortment of the parts necessary to place the three most popular sizes of OptiPost — maxillary central and lateral incisors, and mandibular central and lateral incisors.

PLACEMENT SEQUENCE

Step 1: Remove the gutta percha with a reamer; Step 2: Using the OptiPost Diamond Pilot Drill, primary reaming is accomplished; Step 3: Custom shape the canal in a telescopic form using the OptiPost placement drill; Step 4: Cement the post adhesively with a self-curing composite or resin-modified glass ionomer cement; Step 5: Accomplish the coronal build-up



Figure 6

adhesively with an opaque, light-cured composite and carry out the final preparation for impression taking.

Overall, the OptiPost System is another viable option for restoring teeth without coronal support. The post sizes and design make the system very user friendly and applicable even for lower anterior incisors with great success. Being able to build-up the core with a light-shaded composite renders the system even more versatile allowing it to be used with metal-free crown restorations. *AP*

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