No-flow flowables for ‘BEAUTIFIL’ restorations

By Howard S. Glazer, DDS, FAGD, FASDA

That’s not a spelling error in the title. I have intentionally spelled it to mimic the name of the non-runny, non-flowable resin material I will discuss.

Resin dentistry has come a long way since the early days of silicates. Both patients and dental professionals have demanded restorative materials that are functional, durable, versatile and esthetic. Imagine, if you will, a material that is a base, liner and restorative all in one tube.

Shofu has developed just such a product: BEAUTIFIL Flow Plus. This new flowable resin is a sculptable, non-flowing resin available in two formulations: F00 and F03. Those designations mean that it flowed zero millimeters when an amount was placed on a pad and held vertically for one minute. Similarly, the F03 flowed only 3 mm during one minute. Both formulations contain the proprietary Giomer chemistry and S-PRG fillers, which release and recharges fluoride like a glass ionomer.

The Giomer chemistry is important. Giomers have an anti-plaque effect by providing a smoother surface when photo-cured. Furthermore, they aid in the reinforcement of tooth structure by forming an acid-resistant layer as well as helping to remineralize dentin.

Recently, the ADA published the results of an eight-year Giomer study, done at the University of Gainesville in Florida, that showed no secondary caries, no restorative failures, no post-op sensitivity and a 95 percent retention of hunter on the restoration.

BEAUTIFIL Flow Plus stays where it is placed and does not require a more traditional composite resin to be placed on top to complete the restoration as some bulk fills do. It is approved for all cavity preparation classification.

There are nine shades for F00, including an opaque, incisal and bleach white. For F03, there are 12 shades, including a unique A0.5, “milky” and cervical shade. Once photo-cured, the materials are about 95 percent finished and polished, and a very high gloss can be achieved using the One Gloss and Super Snap Singles polishing systems (Shofu).

As you will see in the cases that follow, BEAUTIFIL Flow Plus is a useful product that enables us to emphasize our artistic ability in the art and science of dentistry.

Case I

The patient is a 33-year-old male who has neglected his dental hygiene for several years and has a history of chewing gum and parking it in his cheek when on the telephone or focusing on his work.

He now presents with several areas of severe cervical erosion. These areas of erosion were successfully restored using a 35 inverted cone carbide and SmartBur II #4 round (both SS White) and then BeautiBond and BEAUTIFIL Flow Plus F03 A03 opaque shade and then F00 shade A3.

Fig. 1: Pre-op photos of the lower left first and second premolars and first and second molars showing cervical decay. (Photos/Provided by Dr. Howard S. Glazer)

Fig. 2: Post-op of the lower left first and second premolars and the lower left first molar.

Case II

The patient is a 63-year-old male with a history of sucking on lemons. The upper right cuspid enamel has been eroded, and the patient had mild sensitivity. The canine was restored using a #34 inverted cone bur (SS White), and the restoration was performed with BeautiBond and BEAUTIFIL Flow Plus F00 shade A30 Opaque and A3.

Fig. 3: Pre-op photo of the upper right cuspid. Note the large area of enamel erosion.

Fig. 4: Post-op photo of the upper right cuspid. Erosion restored with "invisible" margins.

Case III

The patient is a 42-year-old male who fractured the upper right central incisor opening a package. The tooth was restored using a Fissurotomy bur (SS White) to create the enamel bevels and BeautiBond and BEAUTIFIL Flow Plus F00 A2.

Fig. 5: Pre-op photo of the upper left central incisor fracture.

Fig. 6: Post-op photo of upper left central incisor.

Here at the PDC

Learn more about BEAUTIFIL Flow Plus at the Shofu booth, No. 1430, in the Exhibit Hall. You can visit Shofu at www.shofu.com or call (800) 827-4638.

About the author

Howard S. Glazer, DDS, FAGD, FICD, FICD, FASDA, FAAFS, is a past president of the AGD and former assistant clinical professor in dentistry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, N.Y. He is the deputy chief forensic dental consultant to the OCME-NYC. Named one of the “Leading Clinicians in Continuing Education” by Dentistry Today, he lectures and publishes internationally on cosmetic dentistry and forensic dentistry.
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Imaging system helps gain patient acceptance and eliminate surprises

Practice praises Carestream Dental’s CS 9300, enjoys time-savings bonus

When Dr. Christian Robin and his partners, Dr. Benjamin Saleh and Dr. Volong Dao, at Saleh Robin & Associates in Ville Mont Royal, Quebec, were selecting a new imaging system, they had very specific requirements.

“We wanted a high-performance system that would give us both 3-D scans and panoramic radiographs,” Robin said. “There were other machines that had excellent 3-D, but not the panoramic radiography—they were just reconstructing the image, which means you lose information. That’s why we selected the CS 9300 from Carestream Dental. With the CS 9300, you get both the 3-D and panoramic radiography, with excellent quality for both.”

The practice acquired the CS 9300 in March 2012 and immediately put it to work. “It is very easy to obtain very good images,” Robin said. “There was not a significant learning curve, even though the staff had no experience with 3-D imaging. With it, we can do any image and any field we need.” After just a few cases, Robin was able to complete work-ups in three minutes. “That’s all it takes to create a virtual implant placement to show to patients or to show the nerve position against a third molar,” he said.

Improving communications

One of the greatest advantages offered by the CS 9300 has been the ability to show patients a 3-D image of the area to be treated, Robin said. “When I show patients their wisdom tooth in 3-D, they can see the proximity of the nerve or the cyst on the opposite side. They can see the teeth, nerves and jaw, and the pathology in it. And they know exactly what I am going to do and why I need to do it.”

Robin said that patients frequently want to see “after” pictures as well, because of their fascination with the technology. “They have far fewer questions now, and there’s a higher degree of acceptance,” Robin also praises the ability to quickly share a digital treatment plan with the referring dentist by simply emailing a few images. “Two clicks and the email is sent,” he said. “Two minutes later and I’m on the phone and they can see what we are discussing.”

Wider field of view

For Robin, whose oral surgery practice includes trauma patients, the ability to obtain a 17-cm-by-11-cm image is important. Not only does it give him a view of the complete maxilla and mandible, but also the condyles, the orbits and the zygomas. “All the fields of view are valuable,” he said, “if you asked me to select one size to eliminate, I couldn’t do it.”

The surgical team is also happy with the intuitive software that meets its needs without being overly complex. “I use 90 percent of the functions on a regular basis,” Robin said. “None are too complicated or unnecessary.” “Before we had the CS 9300, we would encounter surprises during surgery,” Robin said. “We could anticipate difficulties and plan to work around them, but we were never sure exactly what we would find. Now we know exactly what to expect. You know in advance if the patient is going to need a bone graft rather than discovering it during the surgery. There’s less of a struggle for the staff this way.”

As an example of how the CS 9300 saves time, he references an impacted tooth. “While you would normally approach an impacted tooth from one side, it may be that the opposite side gives you better access. You can visualize it in 3-D and see what was hidden before. For the patient, this reduces the length, degree or invasiveness of surgery so there is less swelling and trauma and therefore a faster recovery.”

Robin trained with 2-D imaging and said he is glad that he had that experience prior to the move to 3-D. “I can do the same job with 2-D and 3-D, but the 3-D gives me more confidence. There are a lot fewer surprises.”

Patient acceptance

In his oral and maxillofacial surgery practice, Robin likes to have an initial consultation with the patient followed by a second visit for the surgery. At the beginning of the second visit, a scan is performed and then used to discuss the procedure with the patient.

“I have never had a time that I scanned patients and showed it to them where they asked why they had to spend for a scan,” Robin said. “Seeing the images educates the patients and gives them a lot of confidence. And they like that we can definitively tell them what to expect in advance.”

About the CS 9300

The CS 9300 has seven selectable fields of view and image resolution up to 90 μm and has both dual-modality panoramic and 3-D imaging with exceptional detail and range, according to Carestream. The fields of view range from 5 cm by 5 cm to 17 cm by 13.5 cm, and the system includes intelligent dose management through collimation, faster scan times and intuitive imaging software.

(Source: Carestream Dental)
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Take digital radiography to the next level at your practice

Sirona Dental introduces Schick 33, intraoral digital sensor and image management system

Are you thinking of taking your practice digital? Without exception, the dentists Patterson Dental works with report that the investment in digital has paid off exponentially. Unfortunately, it’s difficult to put a price tag on the ways that digital radiography has improved their practices—because the benefits include everything from better patient communication and compliance to enhanced diagnostics and patient face time. But the resulting conclusion appears to be universal: “Once you switch to digital, you’ll ask yourself what took so long.”

Upgrade imaging—and upgrade your image

Sirona Dental has just introduced Schick 33, a new intraoral digital sensor and image management system available exclusively through Patterson Dental. The system is billed as the most advanced sensor on the market, delivering an unparalleled combination of high-resolution imaging and dynamic image management in a modular platform. Patterson Dental says the Schick 33 is redefining the category.

Schick 33 provides dentists with a wide array of digital imaging resources. The new intraoral digital sensor delivers the highest resolution in the industry, according to the company. It is paired with newly enhanced imaging software that enables dentists to review, store and share images from a variety of clinical perspectives.

Developed to help dentists integrate new digital technologies that can grow with their practice, Schick 33 utilizes the same replaceable cable and remote module design as the Schick Elite sensor. Schick 33 seamlessly integrates with other existing Schick platforms, making it an ideal choice, according to the company.

Digital radiography enhances the patient experience and assists the dental staff in numerous ways. For example, it enhances patients’ ability to understand problem areas and empowers them to choose the most appropriate course of action. First and foremost, digital sensors are often comfortable and unobtrusive—reassuring patients that they’re in good hands. Radiation exposure also is significantly lowered, reassuring patients that their safety is a top priority.

Digital radiography enables your staff to instantly evaluate and share X-rays with patients. It also maximizes staff time: It’s as quick as positioning the sensor and exposing the image. In short, what used to take 10 minutes is now instantaneous.

Digital radiography changes the way you take and see images. The new Schick 33 accommodates the needs of every dental practice with an unprecedented level of control, unmatched image quality and unequalled diagnostics, according to the company.

Schick 33’s enhancement software features an image enhancer that enables you to adjust image sharpness (from 0.0 percent to 100 percent). All you have to do is move the interactive image enhancer to the sharpness level you desire. It’s a simple enhancement that gives you sophisticated diagnostic capabilities, according to the company.

Schick 33 features include:
- Image preference presets that give users the ability to save images based on diagnostic needs, from general dentistry to endodontics, periodontics and restorative dentistry.
- User-definable tasks for multiple-clinician practices make it easy to change settings according to preference or diagnostic task.
- 100 percent compatible with the Schick AimRight positioning system.

The Schick 33 is compatible with most software options, including Patterson Dental and Eaglesoft imaging, as well as second-generation DICOM. Schick 33 comes equipped with three different sensor sizes (0, 1, 2) and three cable lengths (3, 6 and 9 feet). As with all Sirona Dental digital imaging systems, Schick 33 is sold, installed and serviced by Patterson Dental. For a free in-office demonstration, call (800) 873-7683.

(Source: Patterson Dental)
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DiaDent Dia-Pen and Dia-Gun warm compaction technique increases the chance that no voids are left behind.

The purpose of obturating a root canal is to fill the space three-dimensionally to eliminate any gateways through which bacteria might enter. Thanks to DiaDent, dentists can now have a bulletproof way to seal root canals to help ensure treatment success. Studies indicate that using the warm compaction technique increases the chance that no voids will be left behind in the obturation process.

Together, the Dia-Pen cordless warm vertical compaction device and Dia-Gun cordless backfill system enable you to obturate with confidence and precision. While countless methods and techniques are available for root canal, perhaps none is as easy and time-saving as DiaDent’s complete obturation system, according to the company.

Dia-Pen is a cordless warm vertical compaction device. It effectively and tightly compacts and seals all canals including lateral canals. After a canal has been shaped and cleaned, a master cone is selected for a snug fit and tug back. Dia Pen is then used to soften, spread, cut and compact root canal filling material. Color-coded pen tips are available in five different sizes, including XF, F, FM, M and ML. Dia Pen is ergonomic and one of the lightest compaction devices on the market, weighing only 65 grams. Its quick heating tip reaches its highest level of temperature of 2,200 C within one second to save treatment time. Three temperature settings of low, medium and high give you full control of any procedure.

Dia-Gun is then followed. Dia-Gun is a cordless obturation system that extrudes warm gutta-percha to backfill the yet unfilled portion of the canal. Dia-Gun comes with two types of disposable tips (23 G or 25 G). The tips can be bent to the desired shape and angle using the multipurpose wrench provided. Using the gutta-percha pellet included in the kit, load one into the loading slot and push it into the heat chamber with the hand plunger. Dia-Gun has three variable temperature settings (1,600 C, 1,800 C and 2,000 C) to enable precise control of obturation flow. Temperature reaches 2,000 C in just 25 seconds. The ergonomically designed 360-degree swivel tip provides improved access, while the thin tip eases narrow canal filling. Another benefit is a lid for the heat chamber that offers protection from dirt and debris.

Dia-Gun is designed to provide reliability and precision while delivering a fast, continuous flow of canal-sealing gutta-percha. Both Dia Pen and Dia-Gun are easy to clean and easy to use, according to the company. Ergonomically designed features reduce hand fatigue while offering tactile feedback. Instructional and introductory videos can be viewed at www.diadent.com. Purchase Dia-Gun and Dia-Pen from your dealers such as Henry Schein, Patterson and Bisco Dental. For more details, you can call (877) 342-3368.

(Source: DiaDent)
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(Source: Beutlich Pharmaceuticals)

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It may be true that some laser systems, which deliver laser energy through an optical fibre, have limitations because of the relatively low speed at which the treatment can be carried out. Why? To protect the expensive fibre, laser energy levels must be kept low, often at the expense of treatment speed and efficiency. However, today’s “next generation” laser systems, utilizing an articulated arm with reflecting mirrors and further supported by advanced digital technology, can deliver laser energy much more efficiently, without compromising treatment speed. Such lasers achieve optical drilling speeds of up to 1.6 times faster than conventional high-speed burrs.

Which laser source
When considering enhancing a dental practice with an investment in a dental laser system, the right choice for the best treatment outcomes is essential. Erbium lasers have long been considered as the optimal dental lasers for effective, precise and minimally invasive hard dental tissue treatments. Of all infrared lasers, they exhibit the highest absorption in water and hydroxyapatite, and are ideally suited for cold optical drilling in enamel, dentine and composite fillings.

A recent study published in the Journal of Oral Laser Applications states that an Er:YAG (LightWalker*) laser delivered through an articulated arm cuts three times faster through dentine and 4.2 times faster through enamel than an Er:Cr:YSGG laser delivered through an optical fibre.

According to the authors of the study, the measured differences in treatment speed result from the differences in the laser wavelengths, pulse duration and shape of the laser pulses. Laser physics is an exact science. The Er:YAG wavelength is absorbed three times better in hard dental tissue than Er:Cr:YSGG. This means that the Er:YAG removes more hard tissue at the same laser power settings, enabling faster procedures. To best ensure the comfort of the patient experience during hard-tissue laser treatments, it’s essential that as little heat as possible created by the laser energy is diffused into the surrounding tissue. The determining factor for this is the laser pulse duration. If the laser energy can be delivered to the target tissue in a very short time span, then the energy cannot escape from the ablated tissue and cold optical drilling is achieved. This is not only required to maintain patient comfort, but also determines maximum optical drilling speed. In this respect Er:YAG lasers with advanced digital pulse control VSP are at a distinct advantage because they can generate very short, 50-microsecond pulse durations.

A final consideration that contributes to faster optical drilling speeds is the shape of the laser pulse. Ideally, laser pulses should be square-shaped, without a slow rise and prolonged decrease in laser pulse power. This ensures that laser power remains constant within the pulse, eliminating inefficiency and unwanted thermal effects to surrounding tissues. Additionally, laser energy is delivered to the relatively low speed at which the treatment can be carried out. Why? To protect the expensive fibre, laser energy levels must be kept low, often at the expense of treatment speed and efficiency. However, today’s “next generation” laser systems, utilizing an articulated arm with reflecting mirrors and further supported by advanced digital technology, can deliver laser energy much more efficiently, without compromising treatment speed. Such lasers achieve optical drilling speeds of up to 1.6 times faster than conventional high-speed burrs.

Advantages for patients
In 90 percent of the cases, patients feel no discomfort at all during Er:YAG laser treatments. Procedures can frequently be performed without anesthesia, eliminating considerable waiting time for patient numbing. With improved patient comfort and reduced anxiety (no needles, no noise, no vibration, no numbness), the stress for both dentist and supporting personnel is also minimized.

Reduced need for anesthesia allows greater opportunity to treat patients in all four quadrants during the same appointment. Fewer follow-up appointments and faster treatments enable increased free chair time and much happier patients. A satisfied patient is more likely to spread the word about comfortable and quick treatments, providing for organic practice referral growth. Furthermore, optical laser drilling does not leave a smear layer on the prepared tooth surface in the way mechanical burs do.

There are dental laser systems on the market, such as the LightWalker from NDI, that combine two laser sources to provide a comprehensive dental treatment platform. These laser systems allow the dentist to perform both hard and soft dental tissue procedures, often in one session. They also allow dentists to perform procedures that would otherwise have been referred elsewhere. After relevant clinical training, these systems will allow dentists to expand their services to include treatment options for periodontal disease, osseous surgery and many other procedures. The provision of additional procedures allows practices to populate the patient schedule with new, high revenue-generating procedures.

By optimizing treatment speed and comfort, building patient referrals and marketing exposure, the new advanced dual frequency Nd:YAG and Er:YAG digital pulsed lasers are indispensable for the modern, expanding practice.

References

(Source: National Dental Inc.)

* The LightWalker system from National Dental Inc. (NDI) lets you choose between two laser sources.