“Many errors are related to violation of the biological width”

An interview with Dr Eduardo Mahn, Chile, on all-ceramic restorations

Restoration using dental ceramics is commonly associated with aggressive preparation and short survival rates, says dentist Eduardo Mahn from Chile. In a live webcast to be presented by the Dental Tribune Study Club in October (2 Oct. 2011, 1 p.m. Indian Standard Time), the implantology and aesthetic dentistry expert will discuss the aesthetic potential and indications for modern ceramics. Dental Tribune Asia Pacific spoke to him in advance about his conceptions, biological aspects and the reason that all-ceramic restorations should be taught at dental schools.

Dr Eduardo Mahn

Dental Tribune Asia Pacific: Your DT Study Club live webcast will be on dental ceramics. In what aspects have these materials improved in recent years?

Dr Eduardo Mahn: That’s a tricky question as dental ceramics have seen quite a development in recent years. Probably the most significant improvement is the strength of more than 1,000 MPa, for example with zirconium oxide, which made the fabrication of multi-unit bridges possible. Evenly significant and even more relevant is the improvement in aspects like aesthetics, versatility and simplicity. Lithium disilicate based ceramics have become available for CAD/CAM and press technology which means that we are now able to make monolithic crowns or veneers without any layering step. This is great news for dental technicians, as these materials help to make the fabrication process much easier and faster. In addition, dentists benefit from lower costs and more predictable clinical results.

Many clinicians however seem to ignore the potential that ceramics have to offer. What are the reasons for this?

I guess the problem starts with education. In the past five years, I have had the opportunity to visit more than 100 dental schools and in most of them all-ceramic restorations are not part of their undergraduate programmes. For this reason, many young dentists are not familiar with working with modern ceramics when they start their careers. Many clinicians however seem to ignore the potential that ceramics have to offer. What are the reasons for this?

Besides your webcast, will you be offering more lectures on this topic in Asia?

We are trying to organise some hands-on courses in India and other countries in South East Asia for the end of the year. More information will be available soon.

Thank you very much for this interview.