1993 saw the establishment of a group of practicing dental practitioners, the PREP (Product Research and Evaluation by Practitioners) Panel, prepared to complete evaluations of new materials and techniques in the practice environment.

To date, over 40 evaluations, including handling evaluations and clinical trials, have been completed. The PREP panel presently has 25 members with an average time since graduation of 21 years. The Panel has a UK-wide distribution and a wide range of dental interests facilitating the assessment of a full range of products and techniques.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the clinical performance of this material at 24 months, in terms of retention of the restorations, marginal adaptation and staining, and post-operative sensitivity.

### RESULTS

To date 46 restorations (in 44 patients) of the original 144 restorations were rated higher for ‘ease of use’, by the participating general dental practitioners (GDPs) than previously used ‘conventional’ and resin-based luting materials.

The results of a PREP panel evaluation of the handling properties of the self-adhesive universal resin cement, RelyX Unicem (3M ESPE, Seefeld, Germany) in clinical use in 13 UK dental practices were reported in 2003. During the placement of 144 restorations the new material was rated for ease of use, by the participating general dental practitioners (GDPs) than previously used ‘conventional’ and resin-based luting materials.

The results from the remaining 91% (n=42) of the restorations are summarised in Fig. 2. These restorations comprised of:

- 14 All-ceramic restorations (6 veneers, 3 porcelain jacket crowns, 4 ceramic inlays and 1 ceramic bridge)
- 14 All-metal restorations (5 posts & 9 crowns)
- 13 Metal/ceramic restorations (11 crowns and 2 bridges)
- 1 Fibre post

A porcelain crack was detected in one metal/ceramic restoration and one other patient (who had generalised dentine hypersensitivity) complained of transient pain six months after cementation.

### DISCUSSION

This initial report suggests the material under investigation is performing satisfactorily in UK general dental practice after 21 months. A longer evaluation period and a larger sample are needed to assess continued performance.

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### REFERENCES