OptraContact, OptraMatrix and OptraSculpt systems

FJT Burke and **RJ Crisp**
Primary Dental Care Research Group, University of Birmingham School of Dentistry

A RANGE of novel devices intended for use in the placement of, principally, resin-composite restorations, has recently been introduced by the Liechtenstein-based dental manufacturing company Ivoclar-Vivadent UK (UK contact: Compass Building, Feldspar Close, Warrens Business Park, Enderby, Leicester LE19 4SE; telephone 0116 2847 880, website www.ivoclar.co.uk).

It is therefore the aim of this paper to describe the views of the PREP (Product Research and Evaluation) Panel members who evaluated OptraContact, OptraMatrix and OptraSculpt on the handling and performance of these devices. Another paper will cover the evaluation of OptraGate and OptraDam.

formation in the placing of Class II composite restorations.

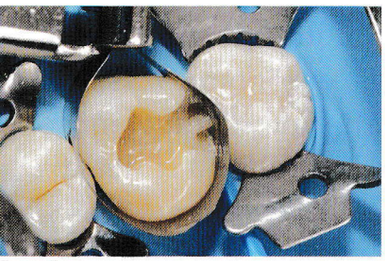
The OptraMatrix system (**Figs 3 and 4**) consists of six different thinned matrix bands for use with a Tofflemire matrix retainer.

The OptraSculpt instrument and tip system (**Figs 5, 6 and 7**) consists of two stainless steel/plastic sterilisable instruments for use with six different disposable tips to model composite restorative materials before curing.

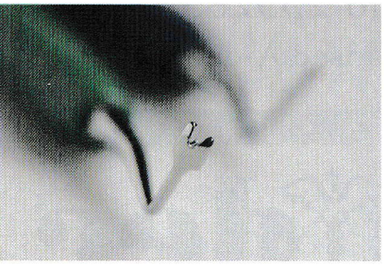
Methods

A questionnaire was designed to test the views on the ease of use of the Optraline devices. Explanatory letters, questionnaires and the Optraline systems were distributed in August 2005. The practitioners were asked to use the materials and return the questionnaire by the end of September.

Twelve members of the PREP panel were selected at random for participation in this evaluation. Two were female. The average time since graduation was 22 years, with a range of 10 to 37 years.



OptraContact



Results

1. Clinical evaluation of OptraContact and the OptraMatrix systems

All (100%) of the evaluators placed composite restorations in posterior teeth.

Of these the proportions were: matrix systems prior to the evaluation, 20% being sectional and 80% being of circular design. When asked to describe how the evaluator achieved a good contact point, the most commonly used technique involved a combination of wedging and use of an instrument, such as a ball burnisher, to apply pressure to the contact area of the band. One quote: "I struggle!"

The ease of use of the currently used matrix system was rated as follows:

Difficult to use — **Easy to use**
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