INTRODUCTION

In 1993 the UK-wide PREP (Product Research and Evaluation by Practitioners) Panel was established. To date over 40 evaluations and clinical trials have been completed and the results published.

MATERIAL

Filtek™ Silorane and Silorane System Self-etch Primer and Bond, is a posterior composite (PC) system with a polymerisation volumetric shrinkage of less than 1% (3M™ ESPE™, Seefeld, Germany).

METHOD

Packs of the new PC (in 4 shades) to use for 10 weeks, plus a questionnaire (designed to evaluate their current PC usage, and the presentation, instructions, handling, aesthetic quality and post-operative sensitivity of the new PC) were sent to 15 practitioners. Most responses to the questionnaire were given on a visual analogue scale (VAS).

Two of the practitioners were female and the average time since graduation was 22 yrs

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

All the evaluators normally placed PC restorations, typically with the weekly frequency as indicated in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. Restorations</th>
<th>No. Evaluators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;10</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The principal reasons for the choice of PC system were good aesthetics, ease of use and wear resistance, with the majority (93%) using compule presentation.

The evaluators rated the pre-study PC system for ease of use by a VAS (where 1= difficult and 5 = easy) as follows:

1 3.9 5

The evaluators rated the pre-study PC for aesthetic quality by a VAS (where 1= poor and 5 = excellent) as follows:

1 4.3 5

All the evaluators were aware of the advantages of a minimal shrink composite restorative but just 5 (33%) knew the percentage shrinkage of their current PC.

EVALUATION OF FILTEK SILORANE

The presentation of the material and the instructions guide were rated (on a VAS where 1= poor and 5 = excellent) as follows:

a) Presentation

1 4.0 5

b) Instruction guide

1 4.7 5

266 restorations (47% Class I, 35% Class II and 18% MOD) were placed in this evaluation.

The evaluators rated Filtek Silorane for ease of use by a VAS (where 1= difficult to use and 5= easy to use) as follows:

1 4.0 5

The evaluators rated Filtek Silorane for aesthetic quality by a VAS (where 1= poor and 5 = excellent) as follows:

1 3.7 5

The evaluators rated the Silorane System Self-etch Primer & Bond for ease of use by a VAS (where 1= difficult and 5 = easy) as follows:

1 4.0 5

Post-operative sensitivity was reported in 2 cases (0.7%).

73% (n=11) of the evaluators would recommend the Filtek Silorane system to colleagues and 67% (n=10) would purchase the system if available at average cost.

CONCLUSION

Ease of handling may be considered helpful to achieving good results. This new low-shrink PC system received high ratings when evaluated by 15 UK general practitioners.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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