



FDI POLICY STATEMENT

Fluoride in Restorative Materials

Original version adopted by the General Assembly: 18th September 2003, Sydney, Australia
Revised version adopted by the General Assembly: 4th September 2009, Singapore

Rationale

- The most common reason for the replacement of restorations is secondary caries
- Ionic fluoride has an anti-caries activity, can alter the dynamics of the caries process, can modify the dental hard tissues and has an anti-microbial effect
- The effect of fluoride-releasing restorative materials on the incidence of secondary caries should therefore be further investigated.

Evidence

- Research has been carried out into the release of fluoride from glass-ionomer and resin-modified glass-ionomer cements, resin composites, polyacid-modified resin composites ('compomers'), fissure sealants and amalgam
- There is substantially more laboratory-based research than clinical research
- Comparisons between studies are hindered by the lack of common study designs
- There is equivocal clinical evidence that there is less secondary caries associated with glass-ionomer cements than with other restorative materials
- There is negligible clinical evidence that other fluoride-releasing materials are associated with the inhibition of secondary caries

Future Research

- There is a need for long-term randomised controlled trials on the effect of fluoride-releasing materials on secondary caries
- There is a need for research to establish the dynamics of fluoride release from such materials
- There is a need to establish the clinical significance of the fluoride 'recharge' capability of fluoride-releasing materials

Clinical Significance

- When selecting a restorative material for a specific situation, all properties, including fluoride release, should be considered
- The success of a restoration depends not only on the choice of material, but also on the skill of the dentist and appropriate caries-preventive measures, including dietary counselling, oral hygiene and exposure to fluoride

References

1. Burke FM, Ray NJ, McConnell RJ. Fluoride-containing restorative materials. *Int Dent J* 2006;56:33-43
2. Wiegand A, Buchalla W, Attin T. Review on fluoride-releasing restorative materials – fluoride release and uptake characteristics, antibacterial activity and influence on caries formation. *Dent Mater* 2007;23:343-362