

Is there nothing with a better taste?

Our patients are right. Sometimes the products or impression materials we use taste unbelievably bad, to put it mildly. Have you ever tried them yourself? It is true that accuracy is more important than taste. Even Mercedes at one time used the slogan "form follows function" to explain why the wing mirrors in their medium range cars could only be adjusted manually, even though the mirrors were adjusted from inside the car. It was only after competitors had been producing cars for some time with electrically adjustable wing mirrors that Mercedes reviewed their policy and provided customers with this improvement.

Now the dental industry is at last providing light at the end of the tunnel in the elimination of horrible tastes. The question is whether the material can retain its functional integrity, i.e. the accuracy and user-friendliness required by dentists. DETAX, Ettlingen, Germany put a new product onto the market at the IDS 2001: greenbite apple, which smells and tastes like green apples. As I made my way round the dental exhibition, flicking through my voucher booklet, I came to the DETAX stand where a friendly advisor took the opportunity to convince me of the benefits of a new A-silicone bite registration material. I promptly handed over my voucher and received a trial pack.



No more wax registrations

Silicone-based bite registration materials are really nothing new. They are well known for their excellent properties when taking the bite registration for prosthetic restorations with reproduction of the posterior support areas. Previously wax was used for this. Wax bite registration is the standard procedure used by older dentists. The disadvantage of wax bite registration was the disocclusion of the tempo-

romandibular joint caused by the biting force, which resulted in deformation of the wax. This slightly raised the bite of the framework or the finished restorations and, though it was only minimal, it was still enough to produce all the disadvantages associated with a more severely raised bite, especially with sensitive patients. The only answer in this case would have been a functional bite registration. This is unlikely with an NHS dentist. A better solution is to register the bite with a material such as greenbite apple.

Just bite together. Do not push forward.

After completing preparation and taking an impression, e.g. for a bridge from tooth 45 to 47, I ask the patient to relax the mouth and close until initial contact. I palpate the masseter muscle to ensure that there is not too much pressure, as this can result in compression of the discus articularis on the side with the preparation. Then I syringe the material from the double-mix cartridge into the prepared area with closed dentition (Fig. 1). Initially the



Fig. 1

material is so fluid that it flows easily through the reduced occlusal section of the abutment, reproducing the precise dimensions of the occlusal area to be restored. The contouring nozzles, supplied with

the material along with the mixing tips, are very useful when using the technique described above. They are used for syringing the bite registration material precisely into small interdental spaces. I rarely use the technique of applying the silicone onto the teeth when the mouth is open and then allowing the patient to bite on it. Patients have all too often misunderstood the instruction bite together and protruded their mandible in an uncontrolled manner. An interesting, though seldom used method is to take the bite during prosthetic treatment while the patient is under anaesthetic. In this case I position the correct bite relationship manually and syringe the silicone between the teeth. After an intra-oral setting time of only 60 seconds greenbite apple is so hard that there are no dimensional changes after removal from the preparation area (Fig. 2). First it is roughly trimmed with a scalpel (always cut away from the hand to avoid accidents) to the correct shape (Fig. 3).



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

The dental technician completes final trimming with a rotary cutting instrument.

No unsightly material on the patient

The new bite registration material from DETAX is also very useful for registering the bite for splints (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4

Until recently using impression plaster was regarded as the only way to prevent models rocking with bite indexes. This was always very messy: mixing the plaster slurry ("Quick, hurry, the plaster hardens so fast!"), inserting it into the disposable 20 ml syringe and attaching the modified saliva suction tip as an application tip. Then the most difficult part: making the patient look presentable again which involved cleaning the face etc. Nowadays bite indexes (Fig. 5) are very easy to register using silicones that attain an extremely high final Shore hardness of 45, e.g. greenbite apple.



Fig. 5

For some time now I have also been using the material for simple bite registrations (Fig. 6), e.g. with modified registration plates designed by Dr Sellman for optimising the occlusion and articulation of full or partial dentures. This saves valuable time, as this new bite registration material also attains its final hardness very quickly.

Something different ...

What else did I want to mention? Oh yes, the taste. I had already had the



Fig. 6



opportunity of smelling the material at the IDS. When I first started using it in my practice, I did not say anything to patients about the properties of the new material. When I asked them about it, they were very taken with its taste. Pity that the pleasant taste only lasted for 60 seconds, though this is an advantage for the dentist. My prosthetic technicians are all agreed that this material fulfils all the requirements expected of a bite or index material. There is no problem at all with rocking and the models and bite registrations can be repositioned exactly. The smell of green apples has also added an air of "... something different" to the laboratory rooms. As you know, impression materials can be claimed by NHS dentists for prosthetic and some jaw fracture invoices, including splints for bruxism or TMD patients. They are also more cost-effective than functional techniques. A second appointment after fabrication of the bite block in the laboratory is also no longer required.

New cartridge system

greenbite apple from DETAX is supplied in 50 ml cartridges for the new Automix 2 System. At first I was annoyed that the cartridges did not fit the extruder guns that I had been using for years. The manufacturer of the extruder units changed production of the standard cartridge system, which is not the fault of DETAX. Two separate outlets and bayonet locking of the mixing tips prevent cross contamination in the area of the opening.

I have tried the new guns and I can confirm that less pressure is required to extrude the material. With a little friendly persuasion it may also be possible to get the gun free when ordering the relevant impression or registration material.

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