ZIRCONIA SURVEY CROWNS POLICY

Oral Rehabilitation Department

For a survey crown to be fabricated in zirconia rather than porcelain fused to metal or gold, the following conditions should be met:

1. The tooth should be in the anterior area (incisors, canines or first pre-molars).
2. Only a lingual/cingulum/occlusal rest should be needed. The rest seat will be created as part of the zirconia structure, and the veneering porcelain should start more toward the incisal edge of the crown.
3. The tooth will not receive a direct retainer. This will avoid stress on the veneering porcelain, and eliminate the need of adjustment to the crown contour. If for some reason the tooth should receive a direct retainer, monolithic zirconia should be used instead rather than PFZ.
4. Polishability of zirconia is one of the major concerns of the faculty. We have an extraoral zirconia polishing adjusting kit available in the student clinic. Arrangements should be done to have that available during the clinical appointment.
5. Not to be used on terminal abutments of distal extensions, since these teeth are subjected to higher occlusal loads and torque forces.
6. May be used to fabricate a crown to fit an existing RPD, since the CAD/CAM technology has been reported to facilitate the laboratory phase of crown fabrication in these cases.

The decision to make the survey crowns out of zirconia rather than metal-ceramic or gold, will be made by Treatment Planning Board Faculty (Drs. Plummer, Metzler or Haeberle).