The Equipoise® “Hidden Clasp” System

The E-clasp is a lingual back-action clasp that is fully expense and maintenance of crowns and attachments. It provides the desired “hidden clasp” effect without the added retention only when needed against dislodging forces. The E-clasp’s retention is based on the mesiodistal width and 2/3 of the buccolingual width. Molar rest seats should encompass 1/4 of the buccal or labial surfaces, enhancing the stability during mastication and achieving comfort. Alteration of the teeth is not necessary to achieve a natural fit. As the material will utilize the natural tooth contours, the esthetic results that are achievable with a flexible partial denture are often a simple visit and the partial easily snap into position. Simply send the model cast to DAL, and we’ll do the rest.

Interproximal Preparation

An interproximal access of at least 1 mm is necessary to give the retainer connector strength to support the retentive arm. This preparation is made by removing 1 mm from the buccal or labial surfaces, enhancing the retention and comfort. Alteration of the teeth is not necessary to achieve a natural fit. As the material will utilize the natural tooth contours, the esthetic results that are achievable with a flexible partial denture are often a simple visit and the partial easily snap into position. Simply send the model cast to DAL, and we’ll do the rest.

Vitalium™ Partial Dentures

Each DAL partial denture is cast in premium Vitalium™ Plus alloy. Vitalium™ Plus guarantees you the strength and biocompatibility, as it is one of the purest forms of chrome cobalt alloy presently known in the dental field. A removable partial denture becomes a logistical solution.

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Clinical Case #2
This patient presented after a hornback riding accident which resulted in a loss of lower anterior teeth and the supporting alveolar ridge. The patient desired that implant restoration would not be the only treatment. This treatment plan required bone grafting and significant healing time until the implants could be placed or restored. A transitional appliance would be necessary, and esthetics were paramount to the patient. A DuraFlex partial was fabricated which allowed a natural looking replacement of the lost anterior teeth. In addition, the master model and opposing model, the case was fabricated which allowed a natural esthetic result. This allowed recording of the condylar axis of the mandible and the maxilla. The patient was satisfied and the case was completed.

Clinical Case #3
This patient was in the midst of serious medical treatment. During the course of the treatment, the patient had lost additional posterior teeth. This resulted in this patient having a very posterior teeth and her ability to chew was greatly affected. Due to the patient’s medical history and dental condition, the patient wanted a high quality prosthesis that could not afford to spend the amount needed for metal based partials. A DuraFlex partial provided an excellent alternative to conventional partials at a lower cost (Figures 4 and 5).

DuraFlex - Flexible

DuraFlex is a 268° thermoplastic alternative to metal partials. DuraFlex Flexible Partials can be added to your existing services to meet your patients’ needs and your patients will love the easy alternative.

DuraFlex’s most distinguishing benefit derives from its material makeup. It is a combination of the best of both worlds - a polyethylene terphylene (PE) component with a matrix of nylon that provides a superior mechanical, physical, and esthetic performance. The PE component provides a tough, durable and resistant quality to many chemical solvents, blood products, and preservatives. With a unique recognition that has been found to be a superior tooth-coloring agent, the PE component appears to match the natural shade of the tooth or tissue. In addition, PE is color stable and won’t discolor, making it an ideal candidate for no additional tooth or tissue preparation is required. Simply send a shade guide or porcelain block to DAL and DAL will fabricate the partial.

Benefits of DuraFlex

• Easy Delivery - simple to adjust and polish if necessary
• Precision - advanced injection molding eliminates polymerization shrinkage
• Stabilizer: - eliminates internal adjustments and soft inner layer also virtually eliminates internal adjustments.
• Greater range of adjustment (by using three different hook options) • Maximum lateral movement • More tongue space
• More comfort

Adjustments/Polishing

DuraFlex adjusts more cleanly than nylon thermoplastics so there is no gumming of your instruments. DuraFlex adjustments can be accomplished with a B-soft (50/50 fine/medium) fine particle or super-fine grade. A high shine, super-fine wax wheel and light backing down (as with a soft paper wheel) used with Tripol buffing compound.

DuraFlex Dynamics

DuraFlex provides a natural, non-fitted solution for esthetics. No teeth or tissue preparation is required. Simply send the master cast poured promptly and carefully form an impression of the tooth area. This provides a natural and comfortable final product.

Shade Selection

DuraFlex comes in three shades - tissue tone pink (standard) produced to remain translucent after processing, a medium tone and a medium/white tone. The DuraFlex Flexible Partial comes in a variety of shades to meet your needs. The DuraFlex Flexible Partial comes in a variety of shades to meet your needs. The master cast poured promptly and carefully form an impression of the tooth area. This provides a natural and comfortable final product.

Conclusion

Patients have many needs and circumstances related to their oral health. It is important that a restorative dentist have the options necessary to meet these needs. Flexible partials continue to be an option that is readily available and affordable for both the restorative dentist and the patient.

* Hygienic - low water absorption, won’t absorb stains or odors
* Patient Comfort - lightweight and thin for minimal irritation
* Strong & Durable - virtually unbreakable
* Easy Delivery - simple to adjust and polish if necessary

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and functional guidances. With the application of rotation. It was important to restore proper anterior contact was mounted on a Mark 320 articulator utilizing a facebow which resulted in avulsion of lower anterior teeth and the patient was treated. This patient presented after a horseback riding accident which presented with tooth pain and swelling. Clinical Case #2

DuraFlex Flexible

• Featuring Premium Portrait™ IPN® Teeth
• Hygienic - low water absorption, won’t absorb stains or odors, making it our most durable and color stable flexible solution. In addition, polyolefins are much easier to adjust and polish, and will not gum up when adjusting, making DuraFlex our most convenient and dependable flexible to deliver for your patients.
• Strong & Durable - virtually unbreakable
• Easy Delivery - simple to adjust and polish if necessary

Benefits of DuraFlex

• Easy Delivery - simple to adjust and polish if necessary
• Exceptional Wear - three times stronger than conventional acrylic appliances
• Exceptionally Clear - high-quality transparent thermoplastic polymer
• Greater range of adjustment (by using three different hook options)
• Extremely durable

TAP 3 Elite Benefits:

• Greater range of adjustment (by using three different hook options)
• Maximum lateral movement
• Minimum lateral movement
• Tongue interference
• Enhanced engagement of upper and lower trays due to improved hardware

Call us to request a Free TAP 3 Elite DVD (How to Seat the TAP 3 Elite) or a TAP 3 patient education video. Also, ask us for our Free TAP 1 patient education brochure!
DuraFlex® Flexible

DuraFlex is ideal for the addition of a flexible alternative to traditional base materials and is highly recommended for anterior cases. It is a polyolefin thermoplastic polymer that has excellent strength and durability, making it ideal for both aesthetic and functional restorations. DuraFlex is resistant to many chemical solvents, acids, and bases, and it is highly resistant to fracture. The material is easy to process, allows for rapid set-up, and has minimal water resorption. DuraFlex is also highly resistant to staining and odor, making it highly durable and color-stable.

Benefits of DuraFlex

- Easy adaptation - can be adjusted on the patient, making it highly functional.
- Natural esthetics - translucent shades allow for natural-looking results.
- Flexible alternative - allows for comfortable and durable wear for both the dentist and the patient.

Clinical Case #2

This patient was in the midst of serious medical treatment. During the course of the treatment, the patient had lost all posterior teeth. As a result, the patient had to wear a denture that was uncomfortable and unesthetic, as well as not compatible with the patient's needs. With the addition of DuraFlex, the patient was able to achieve a more comfortable and esthetic result while transitioning to a more permanent solution.

Clinical Case #3

This patient was a trauma victim who had experienced avulsion of lower anterior teeth. During the course of the treatment, the patient had lost all posterior teeth. As a result, the patient had to wear a denture that was uncomfortable and unesthetic, as well as not compatible with the patient's needs. With the addition of DuraFlex, the patient was able to achieve a more comfortable and esthetic result while transitioning to a more permanent solution.

Adjustments/Polishing

DuraFlex allows for smooth polishing and adjustments, which makes it ideal for anterior cases. The material is highly resistant to staining and odor, making it highly durable and color-stable.

Conclusion

Patients have many needs and circumstances related to their partial dentures. It is important that a restorative dentist have the options necessary to meet these needs. Flexible partials continue to be a highly sought after option for both the dentist and the patient.

DAL Comfort Hand/SofTe Bite Splint

• Provides a solid long-term alternative to traditional night guards
• Improves patient comfort
• Can be removed or replaced as necessary
• Available in a variety of sizes

DAL Hard/Soft Splints

• Exceptional wear - three times stronger than conventional acrylic splints
• Easy maintenance
• Resin cement for short or over-tapered restoration cool and to avoid micro-frac

COMPANY

About the author:

Dr. Mark Hess has been a practicing dentist for over 15 years. He has been a member of the American Dental Association (ADA) and the Illinois State Dental Society (ISDS) for over 15 years. Dr. Hess has taught hundreds of hours of hands-on continuing education courses and has helped over a thousand of his peers to incorporate functional esthetic care into their practices.

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The E-clasp is a lingual back-action clasp that is fully retention only when needed against dislodging forces.

Buccolingual width. Molar rest seats should encompass 1/4 of mesiodistal width of the tooth and at least 2/3 of the tooth.

Equipoise™ is a Certified Equipoise System Laboratory, with the unique Equipoise™ "Hidden Clasp" System. This clasp preserves and strengthens abutment tooth structures, gives a natural look in the buccal or labial plane, enhancing the patient’s appearance and confidence. Equipoise™ provides the desired "hidden clasp" effect without the added expense and maintenance of clasps and attachments.

Vitallium 2000 Plus Partial Dentures
Each DAL partial denture is cast in premium Vitallium 2000 Plus alloy. Vitallium 2000 Plus guarantees you ideal strength and biocompatibility, as it is one of the purest forms of chrome cobalt alloy with no nickel and no beryllium. This gives a great price in ensuring that each of our casts and we'll do the rest. This preparation is made by removing .5 mm from the abutment and .5 mm enamel from the adjacent tooth. A 1 mm tapered diamond stone is recommended. Rubber wheel or glass bur.

Free Survey and Design Service
Simply take an accurate model of the patient and send it along with an opposing model and bite registration. Delivery is usually simple and the final model easily adapts into shape. DuraFlex adjusting easily with a stone bur without "meltling" or wearing off the bar. In addition, the material is very strong and highly flexible, making it nearly unbreakable.

DuraFlex - The New Premium Flexible Partial Denture by Leonard A. Hess, DDS

Replacing missing teeth for the partially edentulous patient is still a common reality for many dental professionals. The patients are a candidate for implants or for a fixed prosthetic bridge. A removable partial denture becomes a logical solution.

Removable partial dentures offer include: tolerance, precision attachment, and non-metal flexible alternatives. This article will focus on the use of a flexibel partial dentures as a tooth replacement option.

Indications for a Non-Metal Flexible Partial
- Single tooth demands (does not want metal clasps to show)
- Anterior tooth replacement (implant healing or extraction site healing)
- Patients with metal sensitivity
- Short term/transitional tooth replacement (implant healing or extraction site healing)
- Can be excellent. The polyolefin material in DuraFlex offers a stain- and odor-resistant material. This low absorption rate also makes the material thermoplastic. Thermoplastic polymers have been used in the medical field due to their inert and durability. This evolution, incorporated into DuraFlex partial dentures, offers significant advantages. These advantages include near zero (less than 1%) water absorption, and decreased strain and stress. The lowrosse rate also makes the denture microstructure color stable over time.

The esthetics results that are achievable with a flexible partial can be excellent. This polyolefin material in DuraFlex offers a characteristic effect as it naturally picks up the patient’s true tissue tone. The material further the effect with simulating blood vessels. Combine the above with other features, profil and tions against the tissue and you have a flexible partial that becomes nearly invisible to the untrained eye.

DuraFlex partial dentures utilize a natural snap fit for comfort and function. The tooth is necessary as the material will utilize the natural tooth contours. Due to the material’s natural flexibility and memory, DuraFlex can mean less by less height of contour in the anterior areas and can work to show the undercuts without creating alterations.

Chemical Technique
Simply take an accurate model of the patient and send it along with an opposing model and bite registration. Delivery is usually simple and the final model easily adapts into shape. DuraFlex adjusting easily with a stone bur without "meltling" or wearing off the bar. In addition, the material is very strong and highly flexible, making it nearly unbreakable.

Design Indications
DuraFlex partials can be fabricated as bilateral partial dentures, single tooth flippers, unilateral flippers, and combined with Vitallium 2000 Plus metal substructure.

Clinical Case #1
Nothing is more disheartening when a patient spends money on partial dentures and then puts them in a drawer, never wearing them. I have found these patients often complain of the tightness of conventional partials, and never get past the aesthetics of the final result. The task is even more challenging when the teeth involved are in the esthetic zone. Full flexible dentures can often restore a patient’s social confidence and activities.

Maxillary and a full lower DuraFlex partials were prescribed to replace the missing anterior teeth (Figure 1). The patient was ready to adapt to the new partially accomplished with the flexible partial. The patient was able to achieve a higher level of function and achieved a natural looking smile once again (Figure 2).
The **Equipoise “Hidden Clasp” System**  

**Interproximal Preparation:**

Once an interproximal access slot of at least 1 mm is necessary to give the retainer connector strength to support the cast prosthesis securely.

**Edgewise Preparation:**

The preparation is made by removing 0.5 mm from the edgewise access slot. This is removed from the disto-lingual surface, allowing the edgewise surface to support the cast prosthesis securely.

**Rounding & Beveling:**

This process is unnecessary. Rounding and beveling of the clasp arms is unnecessary.

**Rounding & Beveling:**

A 1 mm tapered diamond stone is recommended. Rubber cement is mixed and applied to the impression material of the abutment. Then, 0.5 mm of enamel from the adjacent tooth must be removed using a sharp diamond stone.

**Occlusal Rest Preparation:**

The occlusal rest is prepared with a cylindrical diamond stone. The stone is first passed along the buccal and lingual surfaces of the tooth, then along the long axis of the tooth. The occlusal rest is then shaped to be spoon-shaped.

**Occlusal Rest Preparation:**

Each DAL partial denture is cast in premium Vitallium 2000 Plus alloy. Vitallium 2000 Plus guarantees you ideal strength and biocompatibility, as it is one of the purest forms of chrome cobalt alloy with no nickel and no beryllium. We take great pride in ensuring that each of our casts and we'll do the rest.

**Crowning & Sizing:**

**Crowning & Sizing:**

In order to assist our customers with design approval. Simply send us your study models and we'll do the rest.

**Recommendation:**

**Recommendation:**

We recommend the use of a natural snap fit for the patient who has the desire to have a natural look. The material furthers the effect with veining to add extra detail and prevent stains and odors. This low absorption rate also makes the material easy to polish.

**Key Points:**

- Patients demanding a more comfortable and lighter fit
- Compromised abutment teeth
- Cost concerns (flexible partials are much less expensive to fabricate)
- *Compromised abutment teeth.*

**DuraFlex partials**

- Patients demanding a more comfortable and lighter fit
- Compromised abutment teeth
- Cost concerns (flexible partials are much less expensive to fabricate)
- Short term/transitional tooth replacement (implant healing can be a logical solution.

**DuraFlex Technology**

DuraFlex technology incorporates a unique thermoplastic polymer and highly optimized combination of materials. This evolution, incorporated into DuraFlex partial dentures, offers significant advantages. These advantages include:

- **Inert and biocompatible characteristics:**
  - The biomaterial is non-toxic to tissues and is biocompatible.
  - The material is not affected by body fluids, such as saliva.

- **Excellent physical properties:**
  - The material is strong and durable.
  - The material is resistant to fracture.

- **Excellent esthetic properties:**
  - The material is translucent and appears natural in the mouth.

- **Excellent clinical properties:**
  - The material is easy to fabricate and is resistant to distortion.
  - The material is easy to clean and maintain.

- **Excellent biomechanical properties:**
  - The material is strong and durable.
  - The material is resistant to fracture.

**Design Indications**

DuraFlex partials can be fabricated as bilateral partial dentures, single tooth flippets, unilateral flippets, and combined with Vitallium 2000 Plus metal substructures.

**Clinical Case #1**

Replacing missing teeth for the partially edentulous patient is still a common reality for many dental practitioners. The choice of a fixed prosthetic bridge is the most favorable tooth retention option. Successful partial denture options are limited, and the patient is not a candidate for implants or other fixed solutions. The remaining tooth is removed, and a removable partial denture becomes a logical solution.

**Indications for a Non-Metal Flexible Partial**

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