

VIEW FROM THE PRACTICE

In a regular column, Rahul Doshi, our clinical editor, looks at issues arising in practice. This month he discusses the four main focus areas to consider when treatment planning



I would like to give all our readers a warm welcome to the launch of Premium Practice Dentistry. We aim to provide the very best in clinical advancements to ensure all colleagues are able to practise at their very optimum.

Before we embark upon designing our treatment plans to provide the necessary dentistry for our patients, an idea comes to mind, which I myself have used for many years. If we are to provide the best outcome from any dentistry that we provide, there are four main focus areas that should be considered in treatment planning. Consideration of these areas will help immensely in giving our patients the optimum in premier dentistry.

KEY AREAS

The four focus areas to consider are:

- **Health**
The health of the gingivae, teeth and soft tissues
- **Structure**
The quality of the remaining tooth structure and options involved to improve or replace the structure
- **Occlusion and TMJ**
The creation of balanced contacts

without interferences

- **Aesthetics**
Cosmetic enhancement on a sound foundation.

Understanding and focusing on these areas during the entire course of the provision of treatment will enable the dentist both to treatment plan and also to execute the treatment plan with predictability. These focus areas can be used in the following situations:

- **History and pre-examination communication**
This allows you to see where the patient has been deficient previously and what aspect he or she is most keen to rectify.
- **Clinical examination**
The four core areas discussed above allow you to make sure you have sufficient information to create sound long-lasting treatment plans.
- **Further special tests**
Occasionally, it becomes necessary to support clinical observation with diagnostic evidence. Understanding of the core areas assists in decision-making.
- **Prevention advice**
We want to create predictable long-term dentistry by preventing problems in these core areas.

- **Diagnosis and treatment planning**
Treatment plans need to be created first in these core areas then combined to form a definitive plan of action.
- **Treatment presentation**
Discussing options with the patient in terms of these core areas will help to enhance communication. This in turn leads to a higher rate of case acceptance.
- **Sequencing and staging of dental treatment**
Often patients prefer to have treatment over a set period of time. Separating the plan into these four focus areas allow priority levels to be discussed and staged treatment plans to be created.
- **Consent and patient advice literature**
Designing patient information with the core areas in mind will help to make communication more effective and beneficial.

The forthcoming issues will deal with the above four core areas in all aspects including patient communication, the latest materials, equipment, methods and techniques to enable our patients to enjoy premier dentistry.

Our aim is to equip you with sound knowledge from the very best in our industry. I wish all of you every success.

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PRECIOUS METALS PRICE INDEX

Whilst the media focused on gold, 2010's star was palladium: its price has doubled in the 13 months to the time of writing. I see the demand side of the equation as whether China yet has the economic strength to power the developed world's economies out of their recession and the supply side to be the increasing efficient recycling of auto catalysts and mine production.

Have you ever wondered why precious metals are priced in troy ounces? An imperial

ounce is 28.35 grams, a troy ounce is 31.1035 grams because an Elizabeth I silver penny was a pennyweight and 20 of these weigh one troy ounce; 12 troy ounces weigh a troy pound. Pre-decimalisation 12 x 20 pennies equalled one pound sterling so common denominators made for efficacy in calculations as well as a simple available weight check.

PALLADIUM PRICES PER TROY OZ

ESTERLING DATES RANDOM MID MONTH LONDON MORNING FIXES NOV 2009-NOV 2010

