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RESIN-BONDED BRIDGEWORK FOR POST-ORTHODONTIC HYPODONTIA PATIENTS WITH MISSING MAXILLARY LATERAL INCISORS: A CLINICAL TECHNIQUE

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Hypodontia affects approximately 6% of the overall population in the UK and absent upper lateral incisors account for around 20% of all congenitally missing teeth.^{1,2}

The specialist management of hypodontia patients via multidisciplinary teams has become an important aspect of day to day clinical activity within dental teaching hospitals in the UK.

The conservative nature of resin-bonded bridges (RRB) allows the opportunity for young adults to move into fixed prostheses sooner than they might otherwise particularly if waiting for growth cessation prior to the possible provision of dental implant supported crowns.

One method of replacing both lateral incisors, introduced in 1994 at Bristol Dental Hospital & School is by means of a RRB using both upper central incisors as the abutment units. This specific technique, which has not been described in the dental literature before, acts not only to replace the missing teeth but in addition, provides a means of post-orthodontic retention following the approximation of the previously spaced central incisor teeth.

Success rates of resin-bonded bridgework are well documented and median survival times of between 7 and 10 years have been reported.³ As well as introducing a clinical technique, this poster describes a retrospective study to assess the survival time of this type of restoration.

References:

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3. Djemal S, Setchell D, King P, Wickens J. Long-term survival characteristics of 832 resin-retained bridges and splints provided in a post-graduate teaching hospital between 1978 and 1993. *J Oral Rehabil* 1999; **26**:302-320.