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Alloys
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July 10, 2009

HOW TO CHOOSE THE CORRECT ERA MALE

When using any attachment in dentistry, it has been a generally accepted principle for many years that one provides the patient with the least amount of retention that the patient demands. In other words, less is best. If we create a prosthesis with too much retention, the patient will often have trouble inserting and removing it. Usually this leads to premature wear of the attachments and even breakage. Therefore, our goal is to provide just enough retention to make the patient's prosthesis comfortable and functional. Of course patient expectations vary. We should make the patients aware that eating salt water taffy and frozen candy bars with a removable partial denture or overdenture is not what we are trying to achieve.

With those ideas in mind, always process the black male into the prosthesis in order to achieve resiliency, whether the male is held in a metal jacket or is placed directly into the acrylic of the denture. This can be done as a chairside procedure or in the lab. After that, the males can be very simply and quickly cored out of the denture, using the proper size Core Cutter bur, and a final colored male can be snapped into the denture use the proper size Seating Tool. The same procedure is used anytime the males need to be replaced. Being very conservative, you can accomplish this task easily in 30 seconds, while using no additional composite, acrylic, or glue.

To decide which of the six colored final males will work best in any female attachment, simply try the proper final male into the female, using your fingers, starting with the white male. If you experience a little snapping, that is the best male. If it has little or no resistance to unseating, then move up to the next color and so on until the best choice is made for each attachment. When in doubt, always try the male with the smaller diameter. Let the patient wear the prosthesis for a week or two before moving up in color.

The order for all ERA males is as follows:

White = smallest button diameter
Orange
Blue
Grey
Yellow
Red = largest button diameter