

Hidden caries: updated occlusal replica technique

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Abstract: *This paper presents a creative alternative to restore function and esthetics of a tooth with hidden caries. A bis-acrylic resin occlusal replica was manufactured prior to preparation. The composite resin restoration was quickly manufactured using this replica, preserving the original anatomic shape of the occlusal surface. The*

step-by-step treatment procedures are presented, from the clinical diagnosis to replica manufacturing, carious tissue removal, composite resin placement, staining and finishing. Advantages and disadvantages are discussed based on the protocols reported in the literature. The bis-acrylic resin occlusal replica allows for the accurate

*replication of the original anatomical surface, in addition to speeding up the esthetic restorative procedure. The technique should also reduce the incidence of premature contacts and the risk of under- or overcontouring. **Keywords:** Dental caries. Composite resins. Permanent dental restoration.*

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» Patients displayed in this article previously approved the use of their facial and intraoral photographs.