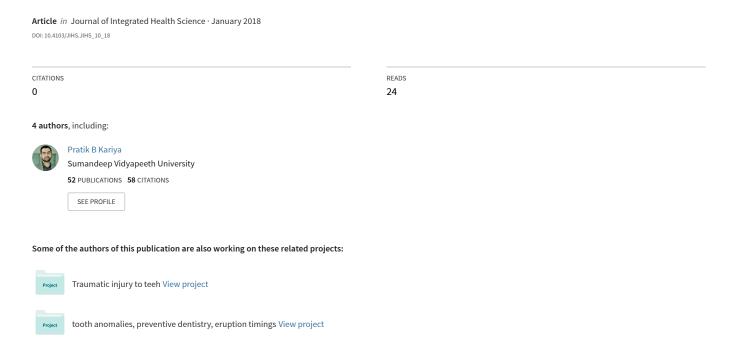
## A cost-effective method of restoring primary anterior teeth with loss of crown structure



#### **Case Report**

# A Cost-Effective Method of Restoring Primary Anterior Teeth with Loss of Crown Structure

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#### **Abstract**

Managing a child with severely mutilated anterior teeth is a task for pedodontists. Although various options are available today for esthetically rehabilitating anterior teeth, they are costly and technique sensitive. In the present case, we esthetically rehabilitated a 5-year-old child with severe early childhood caries with chairside fabricated indirect composite shell crowns. The technique described in this case report is simple, requires minimal compliance from the child, is less technique sensitive, and can be completed in an accepted chairside time.

Keywords: Composite shell crowns, early childhood caries, indirect restoration, primary anterior teeth

#### NTRODUCTION

Dental caries is one among the most prevailing infectious diseases among children. Poor oral hygiene, improper feeding habits, and lack of awareness among parents are the main factors responsible for such prevalence. Moreover, the comparatively smaller tooth structure of primary teeth leads to speedy involvement and loss of the tooth structure in terms of surface area. [1] Managing children in dental chair is a task that a pediatric dentist specializes in but at the same time lack of cognitive development and understanding capacity in children sometimes makes it difficult to make the child cooperate for lengthy treatment.

Loss of crown structure in the primary anterior teeth poses an esthetic challenge for a pediatric dentist. Lot of newer advancement such as zirconia crowns has made its way to the limelight, but their high cost still remains a pressing factor among the middle-class population. In such cases, resin composite restoration becomes the treatment of choice.

As placement of direct resin composite restorations is a technique-sensitive procedure, it requires patient cooperation, careful isolation, and time of the operating field. [2,3] With indirect composite shell crowns, these complexities can be avoided. In a 5-year clinical study, Ulvestad in 1987 reported on the durability and function of resin crowns. [4,5] The following case report describes the placement of a chairside-fabricated

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composite shell crowns for grossly decayed multiple anterior teeth.

#### CASE REPORT

A 5-year-old male patient reported to the department with early childhood caries affecting the maxillary anterior teeth [Figure 1]. After a thorough clinical examination, deep dentinal caries was seen in 55, 54, 52, 51, 61, 62, 75, 84, and 85. Radiographic investigation showed pulpal involvement in 51, 52, 61, 62, 75 and 85. Teeth 54 and 84 were grossly decayed, and hence, extraction followed by band and loop space maintainer was given. After pulpectomy in 51, 52, 61, and 62, fiber post was given as there was lack of crown structure and core build-up was done with dual-cure composite resin [Figure 2]. Pulpectomy followed by stainless steel crowns was given in 75 and 85 and 55 was restored with type IX glass ionomer cement.

Maxillary and mandibular arch impressions were made with irreversible hydrocolloid alginate impression material.

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Impressions were poured with dental stone and casts were made. After pouring the impression, the cast is allowed to set. Double coating of the separating media was applied to create space for luting cement. Composite resin build-up was done on 52, 51, 61, and 62 on the cast and occlusion was checked in relation with the mandibular anterior teeth such that it acts as the core of the anterior teeth followed by curing [Figure 3]. As it forms a complete shell-like structure over the affected teeth, it is called as composite shell crown. After completion of indirect restoration on all the teeth, the shell crowns were finished and polished [Figure 4].

The shell crowns were ready to be cemented. The teeth to be restored were etched, rinsed, dried, and followed by application of bonding agent and curing. The fabricated shell crowns were filled with dual-cure flowable luting resin and placed intraorally on the maxillary anterior teeth. Excess luting resin was removed carefully with a probe. Light curing was done individually over each shell crown labially as well as lingually [Figure 5]. Parents and the patient were given proper dietary and oral hygiene advice, and periodic recall was maintained at the interval of 3 months.

#### DISCUSSION

It remains a challenge for the pediatric dentists to restore severely carious anterior permanent teeth. The aim of pediatric restorative dentistry is to restore the damaged teeth to maintain



Figure 1: Preoperative photograph showing early childhood caries



Figure 3: Cast showing shell crown fabrication

normal function and esthetics. The absence of tooth structure, limited availability of techniques and materials, poor adhesion of bonding agent to primary teeth, and uncooperative children for whom these restorations are needed make these treatments difficult, with high rate of failure. [6] Intracanal retainers after endodontic treatment is necessary to get retention and provide stability for such reconstructed crowns.

Direct and indirect composite, strip crowns, polycarbonate crowns, zirconia crowns, open-faced strip crowns, and acrylic crowns are the various treatment options available for restoring primary anterior teeth. Although multiple treatment options are available in children for esthetic rehabilitation, most of these options are technique sensitive.<sup>[7,8]</sup> Moreover, few of them such as zirconia crowns also require subgingival preparations and isolation and hemorrhage control in children becomes difficult. In the present case, cost factor was a major issue and a less costly treatment plan had to be decided. The use of preformed, composite shell crowns reduces the cost as well as can result in a more durable, esthetic, and functional restoration for pediatric patients. [9] Composite resin materials have shown the best strength, wear resistance, esthetics, and color-matching abilities of all the materials and are often the first choice of many clinicians for restoring anterior teeth.[10] Although a lot of treatment options are available, the beauty of the esthetic crown will depend on the clinician's knowledge, child's behavior, and retention of the crown and proper maintenance of the oral hygiene.[11]



Figure 2: Fiber post in position



Figure 4: Photograph showing finished shell crown



Figure 5: Postoperative photograph

#### CONCLUSION

The technique described in this case report is simple, requires minimal compliance from the child, is less technique sensitive, and can be completed in an accepted chairside time. Although composite shell crowns might not have as high strength as zirconia crowns but with proper home care and regular follow-up, this can be a cost-effective option for primary anterior restoration.

#### **Declaration of patient consent**

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent forms. In the form the patient(s) has/have given his/her/their consent for his/her/their images and other clinical information to be reported in the journal. The patients understand that their names and initials will not be published

and due efforts will be made to conceal their identity, but anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

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Nil

#### **Conflicts of interest**

There are no conflicts of interest.

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