

Technical Tip: Why measure your temporaries?

Proper Preparation design is critical in any crown and bridge case especially when working with anterior restorations. In order for the technicians at the lab to fabricate a crown with the required strength and esthetics, there must be enough reduction on all aspects of the tooth. A common assumption made is that the lab will have no difficulties designing the crown if the temporary restoration looks and feels good for the patient.

The important thing to consider is that ample space needs to be provided for a framework or coping and also porcelain overlay. Just the coping alone for a zirconia crown is .4mm thick at the minimum and .6mm if the prep is dark or is a post. Adequate reduction is especially significant on the incisal third area of the tooth so that the prep rolls back towards the lingual. In cases where there isn't enough reduction it's impossible for the technician to construct a crown without overcontouring the buccal surface, which creates unsatisfactory results for the patient.

An easy way to reassure that all angles of the tooth are adequately reduced is to simply measure the thickness of the temporary to make sure that 1.5mm reduction has been made. Assuming that the temporary has the desired contours, the final restoration will then satisfy the patient's expectations.

