

From DentistryToday.com

The Occlusal Caries Biopsy Helps Preserve Teeth, October 18, 2017

<http://www.dentistrytoday.com/news/todays-dental-news/item/2518-the-occlusal-caries-biopsy-helps-preserve-teeth>

Van B. Haywood, DMD, and Ray Jeter, DMD

Are you under-diagnosing or over-treating occlusal caries, or delivering conventional posterior composites when you feel a sealant alone is not the answer? The way we now diagnose occlusal caries has changed radically from the method dentists have used for decades. Accurate diagnosis of the pit and fissure status, from stains and simple non-coalesced deep grooves to dentin caries that undermines enamel in a fluoride-affected tooth, has become a real challenge for the astute clinician. Largely due to fluoride, the “explorer stick” method is no longer valid or predictable. This article explains why that is true and introduces an alternative method for caries diagnosis. The options for a “caries biopsy” and rationale for that treatment are also described, including the proper codes for a “Preventive Resin Restoration.” To read more, click [here](#).

Dr. Haywood and Dr. Jeter are in the Department of Restorative Sciences at the Dental College of Georgia in Augusta, Georgia.

How to Improve Caries Control in Patients with Dry Mouth, October 25, 2017

<http://www.dentistrytoday.com/news/todays-dental-news/item/2543-how-to-improve-caries-control-in-patients-with-dry-mouth>

Van B. Haywood, DMD, and Monica Chana, DMD

Dry mouth is a problem for both the patient and the dentist. There is the uncomfortable feeling for the patient, but more importantly the risk of dental caries that ruins good teeth and previous dental work. The causes may be anything from aging to medications to radiation treatment, most of which cannot be changed. Yet there are strategies for minimizing the effects of dry mouth and resultant dental decay that have proven helpful in some populations. Finding the right option for each case is a matter of trial and error —treating the symptoms and sequelae of dry mouth, as no one size fits all. This article describes 14 different options to consider with patients and introduces the “green tea” research and “carbamide peroxide” options. To read more, click [here](#).

Dr. Haywood is in the Department of Restorative Sciences and Dr. Chana is in the Department of Oral Health and Diagnostic Sciences and General Dentistry at the Dental College of Georgia in Augusta, Georgia.