

# Examiners' Observations

## Key Insights for Accreditation Case Type II

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Illustrations by Dave Mazierski

The unique challenge that is being assessed in Case Type II is whether the candidate can indirectly restore one or two anterior teeth to a level of excellence that results in the restorations invisibly dissolving into the surrounding dentition. Placing emphasis on replicating nature requires great teamwork and communication between the restoring dentist and the ceramist. In this case type, the smile design-related criteria are limited to the local issues that influence the isolated restoration.

Achieving excellence is not accidental, as Dr. Hatkar demonstrated with this case. The key to a successful restoration is to carefully analyze the contours, shades, translucencies, and idiosyncrasies of the adjacent and contralateral teeth. By using diagnostic models and photographs, Dr. Hatkar was able to design a prototype stent that was created from his diagnostic wax-up. From this prototype, information relative to the desired contours could then be effectively communicated to the ceramist for the fabrication of a functionally esthetic result.<sup>1</sup> Using a contrastor in the 1:1 images is a great help in visualizing the essential incisal effect details in teeth requiring restoration. Well-composed, clean photography of properly hydrated teeth and preparations helps the ceramist bring restorations to life.<sup>2</sup>

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Dr. Hatkar's case selection enhanced his opportunity to succeed. Other than limited occlusal concerns, there were no distracting issues to compromise the success of this case. Tissue architecture was reasonably balanced and the unaffected teeth exhibited acceptable contours and esthetics.

The examiners unanimously passed Dr. Hatkar's case. The criteria faults identified were all judged to be minor.<sup>3</sup> They included the following:

- 53. *Is the color (hue, value, chroma) selection appropriate/natural, not monochromatic?* A slightly lower value was noted for #7 than for the adjacent and contralateral teeth, and the chroma in the mid-facial cervical of #7 was higher than in adjacent and contralateral teeth (Fig 1).
- 61. *Is margin placement and design appropriate? Are the margins visible?* The examiners observed a visible margin on the mesial facial of #7.
- 87. *Are contralateral teeth in harmony in terms of size, shape, and position?* The examiners noted minor concerns relative to the length of #7 and the lack of balance with the contralateral tooth that also affected its visual proportions (Fig 2).

As with all Accreditation case types, a deliberate purpose must be demonstrated and a level of excellence must be achieved. Each case type focuses on a particular subset of skills and knowledge. Dr. Hatkar has provided a fine example of the process to ensure natural, esthetic, predictable results for Case Type II. The hidden value in Accreditation is the repeated implementation of a proven protocol, which results in an enhanced level of predictability for every case.

## The key to a successful restoration is to carefully analyze the contours, shades, translucencies, and idiosyncrasies of the adjacent and contralateral teeth.

### References

1. Dawson, PE. Functional occlusion: from TMJ to smile design. St. Louis: Mosby; 2007. p.173-5.
2. Terry DA, Snow SR, McLaren EA. Contemporary dental photography: selection and application. *Compend Contin Educ Dent.* 2008 Oct;29(8):432-6, 438, 440-2 passim; quiz 450, 462.
3. American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry. Accreditation examination criteria. Madison (WI): The Academy; 2009. **jCD**



**Figure 1:** Within the components of shade (hue, chroma, and value), managing value is the most critical criterion. An effective tool in accessing value is black-and-white photography, which reduces the visual field to the relative grayscale. In this example, the lower value displayed in tooth #9 is visually distinguished through the use of black-and-white imaging.



**Figure 2:** Balancing the proportions of contralateral teeth is an important criterion in managing those visual distractions that would indicate the presence of a restoration.



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