

Glossary of Terms

General Description - Brief statement of the composition and behavior of the dental material.

Principle Uses - The types of dental restorations that are made from this material.

Resistance to further decay - The general **ability** of the material to prevent decay around it.

Longevity/Durability - The probable average **length** of time before the material **will** have to be replaced. (This will depend upon many **factors unrelated** to the material such as biting habits of the patient, **their** diet, the strength of **their bite**, oral hygiene, **etc.**)

Conservation of Tooth Structure - A **general** measure of how much tooth needs to be removed in order to place and retain the material.

Surface Wear/Fracture Resistance - A general measure of how well the material holds up over time under the forces of biting, grinding, clenching, etc.

Marginal Integrity (Leakage) - An indication of the **ability** of the material to **seal** the interface between the restoration and the tooth, thereby helping to prevent **sensitivity** and new decay.

Resistance to Occlusal Stress - The ability of the **material** to survive heavy biting forces over time.

Biocompatibility - The effect, if any, of the material on the general **overall** health of the patient.

Allergic or Adverse Reactions - Possible systemic or **localized reactions** of the skin, gums and other tissues to the **material**.

Toxicity - An indication of the ability of the material to interfere with normal physiologic processes beyond the mouth.

Susceptibility to Sensitivity - An indication of the probability that the restored teeth may be sensitive of **stimuli** (**heat, cold, sweet, pressure**) after the material is placed in them.

Esthetics - An **indication** of the degree to which the material **resembles** natural teeth.

Frequency of Repair or Replacement - An indication of the expected longevity of the restoration made from **this material**.

Relative Cost - A **qualitative** indication of what one would pay for a restoration made from this material compared to **all** the rest.

Number of Visits Required - How many times a patient would **usually** have to go to the dentist's office in order to get a restoration made from **this material**. -

Dental Amalgam - **Filling** material which **is** composed mainly of mercury (43-54%) and varying percentages of silver, tin, and copper (46-57%).