

In selecting suitable restorative materials for occlusal reconstruction, the problem of different wear must be born in mind, differential wear may disrupt occlusal contacts and leading to occlusal disharmony.

Both metal ceramic and metal plastic facet crowns are *functionally* stable in the mouth during their life span but in three years time after cementation only 98 % of ceramic facet crowns and 90 % of plastic facet crowns are in perfect condition with esthetic acceptability; provided correct laboratory construction and placement.

Colour stability of metal ceramic is 100% and only 50% for plastic facet crowns in the course of three years time after cementation.

Mechanical stability of ceramics is higher than plastic crowns.

Mechanical abrasion is higher in plastic facet crowns.

Porcelain can be potentially destructive when opposing natural teeth and certain restorative materials. Recommendations focus on avoiding occlusal contacts in porcelain, despite highly glazed surfaces. However, patient demands for esthetics commonly result in compromise but this should be contraindicated in the cases of bruxers, clenchers and people with abusive occlusal habits.

A successful cast restoration usually implies a smooth gingival margin with a supportive relationship to the gingival margin; we have to determine a suitable finish line before tooth preparation. The DMF rate, height of gingival tissue, and oral hygiene directly influence the decision, but variations are commonly instituted by the dentist.

Subgingival margins are likely to cause gingival inflammation but this is not very crucial when the crown is placed by a highly skilled dentist in the mouth of a motivated, cooperative patient. Whenever possible, the finish line should be placed in an accessible area where the margins of the restorations can be finished by the dentist and kept clean by the patient.

Life span of metal ceramic crowns is higher than metal plastic crowns, should last + 10 years with esthetic acceptability if laboratory construction is correct & placement correct.

Plastic facet crowns require polishing and cleaning at least twice a year; this is not very necessary for ceramics.

Plastic facet crowns are more affordable than ceramic facet crowns.

Ceramic facets are best recommended when opposing dentition have been restored, filled or have a crown or bridge with porcelain materials.

Repairing of plastic facet materials are much more convenient than metal ceramics, with the advantage of low cost.

Repair expectations of plastic facet materials are higher than ceramics.

Plastic facet crowns are preferable in the elderly when many teeth are involved since they are lighter in weight than metal ceramic.

More tooth structures need to be sacrificed in a metal ceramic construction; therefore it is better in case of vital teeth to do a proper evaluation.

The preparation of a tooth for both types of facet materials duplicates the morphology of the natural tooth and the original occlusal anatomy, to ensure the health of dentition so that reduction occurs to a minimum.

Eventual choice rests upon the decision taken after appropriate patient-dentist communication.