

NobelGuide™ and Gnathodontics

by Steve Mott, CDT, Implant Department Manager

Implantology is a growing (and exciting) part of the dental profession. New improvements seem to crop up every day, making it a challenge to navigate the latest products and procedures. Your team at Gnathodontics is trained and ready to assist you in case planning and implant placement using NobelGuide, the latest patient-friendly treatment from Nobel Biocare designed for Immediate Function™.

NobelGuide is a new anatomically and esthetically driven treatment protocol that offers your patients immediate function using guided surgery and a high precision template to place implants. Now, any type of restoration can be placed in one visit, with function and beauty delivered using flapless surgery. The surgical template guides implants into bone at exactly the right depth and position, and yields an easier, more patient-friendly procedure. With less post-operative bleeding and less healing time, your patient will be able to leave your office with a new smile and less pain through a method that reduces chairtime!

CAD/CAM technology produces extremely accurate templates for predictable placement that is safe and fast! And with our training and experience, pretreatment planning to the final seating just got easier. Call us to learn more about how we can help you increase patient satisfaction while reducing costly, time-consuming office visits.

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The Gnathodontics Custom Shade Procedure

by Kevin Kelly, CDT, Ceramics Department Manager

Today's esthetically demanding dental patients are in tune with cosmetic procedures, due in part to recent television programs such as *Extreme Makeover* and *Dr. 90210*. At Gnathodontics, we provide a custom shade-taking service to help satisfy your patients' cosmetic desires. In this article, I will detail our service and how it insures your patients are provided with the best possible results for their final restorations.

Scheduling works best if the dental office calls our laboratory to schedule patients as part of routine checkout protocol. This insures that the patient gets scheduled at the laboratory right away, which in turn enables us to stay on a pre-determined turnaround time of two to three weeks in the laboratory. When the shade-taking appointment is left up to the patient, all too often it doesn't get scheduled soon enough and causes delays.

I prefer a two-appointment process. It helps if patients are prepared for this beforehand so they are not surprised by the need to make two trips to the laboratory. The purpose of the first appointment is to pick a color for the porcelain build, take digital photographs, and discuss the patient's expectations for the final result. The second visit is a follow-up shade verification appointment to check the restoration before the final glazing procedure and verify that the color is correct. If possible, I prefer to remove the temporary restoration and try in the actual crown. This generally eliminates any problems at the seating appointment in the clinic. If a try-in is done, the procedure needs to be approved by the dentist and the temporary removed by the dental office before the patient comes for the second appointment, or doctors can give us a written prescription to do so.

There are several other important issues that make the entire process more efficient. I have found that taking a shade the day of the dental appointment is not a good idea unless it is done before the appointment at the dental office. The teeth tend to dehydrate after typical prepping and impression techniques, resulting in an inaccurate shade evaluation. Always provide the laboratory with a stumpf shade (underlying prep shade) for all-ceramic restorations. This can be done with the IPS Empress® stumpf guide or a regular shade guide, but the information is vital. Also, please indicate if the patient has endodontically treated teeth or a post and core.

Finally, bleaching procedures should be discussed and completed before the appointment at the laboratory.

Often patients tell me that they are planning on doing some bleaching in the future. This makes it very difficult to get an accurate color match as it is nearly impossible to guess where the color will end up after bleaching. If the patient is currently bleaching, he or she should be finished at least five days before the first laboratory appointment.

Following these helpful guidelines, we can give patients the final restoration(s) they deserve. We look forward to providing you with some of today's latest developments in dentistry and being a part of your dental team.

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An Esthetic Match Made in Heaven

by John Bozís

New to our line of cosmetic restorations, IPS e.max® is a system designed for simplicity that can be used anywhere in the mouth. At Gnathodontics, we have combined IPS e.max ZirPress with 3M Lava™ frameworks for a new combination product that addresses the esthetic demands of today's cosmetic-oriented patients. This combination meets the strength requirements for bridges while allowing traditional cementation.

Ivoclar Vivadent, best known for the excellent cosmetic system IPS Empress®, has developed a complete line of highly esthetic pressable ceramic ingots for zirconium oxide frameworks. IPS e.max ZirPress gives us the ability to press highly esthetic ingots over incredibly strong Lava Zirconium Oxide crown and bridge frameworks. This premium restoration from Gnathodontics offers an unmatched combination of IPS Empress esthetics with Lava strength and ease of use for the clinician. The results are simply beautiful!



- Conventional cementation
- Excellent marginal integrity
- Perfect for combination cases
- Flexural strength of 1200 Mpa
- Outstanding match with adjacent restorations
- Strong homogeneous bond of ceramic to coping

What we need from you to fabricate an e.max ZirPress case: a deep chamfer or shoulder prep is required to achieve the 360 degree esthetic margin and either a Chromoscope or Vita A-D shade. For more information on Gnathodontics' e.max ZirPress restorations, call [Kevin Kelly](tel:303.424.9515) or [John Bozís](tel:303.424.9515) at 303.424.9515.

Bandilock™ – a Breakthrough in Alginate Accuracy

by Myron Wilson, Orthodontics Specialist

At Gnathodontics, we're proud to announce the development of a new product that solves the common problem of ill-seated molar bands inside alginate impressions. Our innovative Bandilock Staple positions molar bands into place and prevents shifting as the gypsum is poured.

Orthodontists, periodontists, prosthodontists, and laboratory technicians can now create an accurate band fit every time. Designed as a double leg device, our Bandilock Staple has two inner straight legs and two outside corrugated legs. The corrugated leg is positioned on the outer perimeter. The straight leg should be positioned on the inner diameter of the band.



For added versatility and value, the Bandilock can be cut in half and used individually. As well, both legs of the Bandilock can be cut or shortened to accommodate the relative thickness of the alginate impression.

As Gnathodontics' orthodontic specialist, I invented Bandilock to improve the accuracy and fit of orthodontic and space maintainer appliances. Now available to the dental community, the Bandilock offers a simple way to get great results. Contact me here at Gnathodontics for more information or go to www.bandilock.com.

Ask About Apnea and Improve Lives

by Mark Abramson, DDS

With advances in technology such as CAD/CAM, digital photography, state-of-the-art materials, and implantology, the dental profession is in a very exciting moment.

One area that is generating a great deal of enthusiasm is the dentist's role in treating sleep apnea. Sleep apnea is now recognized as a true epidemic within an ever-growing population experiencing increased longevity and swelling obesity rates. Dentists are at the front lines for diagnosing obstructive airway problems.

Apnea is a total blockage of the airway for 10 seconds; hypoxia is a reduction in airflow that leads to at least a 4% drop in the blood oxygen level. Both of these conditions elevate blood pressure and strain the heart. You will find that about 17% of your patients are having their health impacted by this serious disorder. Apnea sufferers are five times more likely to experience heart attack or stroke, not to mention chronic fatigue and related health problems like cognitive dysfunction, sexual dysfunction, gastric reflux, depression, and a significant increase in auto accidents.

I am very proud to have developed a unique dental device for treating OSA, the **O2 OASYS Oral/Nasal Airway System™**. This unique device is the first appliance reviewed and approved by both the Dental and ENT Division of the FDA for treatment of sleep apnea as a mandibular repositioner and nasal dilator.

OASYS represents a breakthrough in that it treats both the nasal airway and the pharyngeal airway with one system. It not only opens the path of air through the nose and repositions the tongue, changing the swallowing pattern, but it also opens up the throat and airway while strengthening the throat against collapse.

You can easily incorporate the treatment of sleep apnea into your practice by simply quizzing your patients about the signs and symptoms of Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA). Working with a physician, a sleep study can then be performed to verify the diagnosis. Under the new standards of care, dental device treatment can be the first line of therapy for mild to moderate levels of OSA.

The traditional method of CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) involves wearing a breathing mask to bed, which is very difficult to adjust to and has a high failure rate. Patient compliance increases significantly with a small intra-oral appliance. Treatment depends on the individual, but informing patients that they have a choice is greatly appreciated by OSA sufferers.

One of the best parts of performing this treatment is how happy patients are with how much the treatment transforms their lives. Just the other day a patient told me that I was better than a marriage counselor because being a silent bed partner has brought his wife back into bed with him and restored their marriage. One hears appreciative comments all the time.

OASYS is now available from Gnathodontics. For more information, call us at [800.234.9515](tel:800.234.9515) or visit www.oasysleep.com.

