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SBO Dental Laboratory

Quality starts with you -PREPARATIONS-

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Quality starts with you Preparations- January 2009

Dear mark,

Welcome to the second in our 4 part series of information emails designed to help us as a laboratory improve quality.

As you read this email it's easy to see that working with SBO provides the best value service. Our mission is to work with you to build your practice in to the best it can be, these emails are an integral part of that mission. Simply [call me now](#) to discuss the other ways we can work together to develop your practice.

Why not [forward this issue](#) to a colleague and help to build their practice too.

As ever, please also feel free to comment by replying to this email, I can then include your comments in next month's issue.

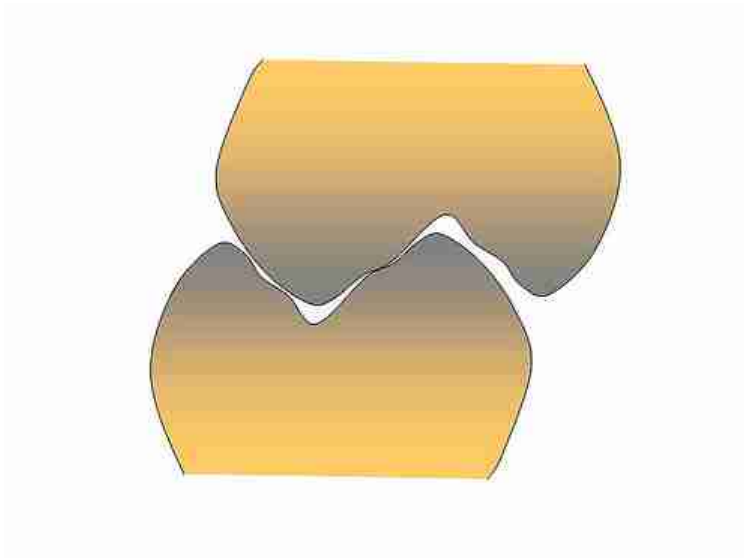
Best regards for now,

Mark
020 7486 2097

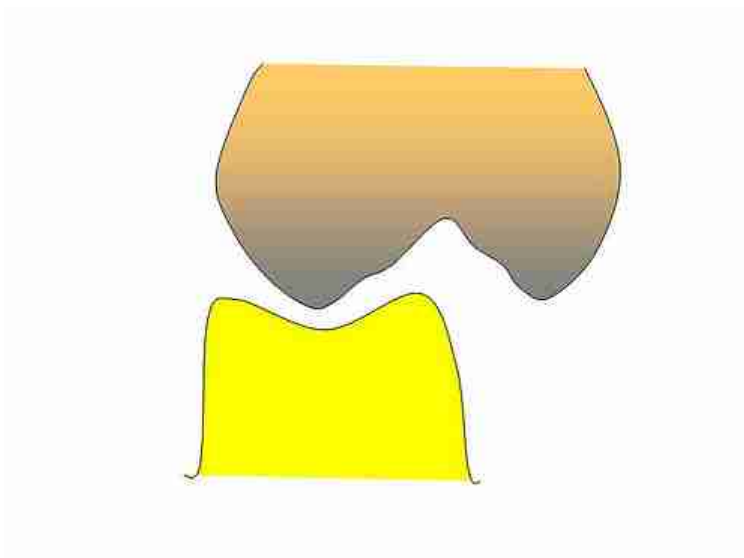
P.S. Next month's issue will cover bite registrations

Lack of occlusal room

The following image shows a regular posterior situation in a cross section looking from the mesial.

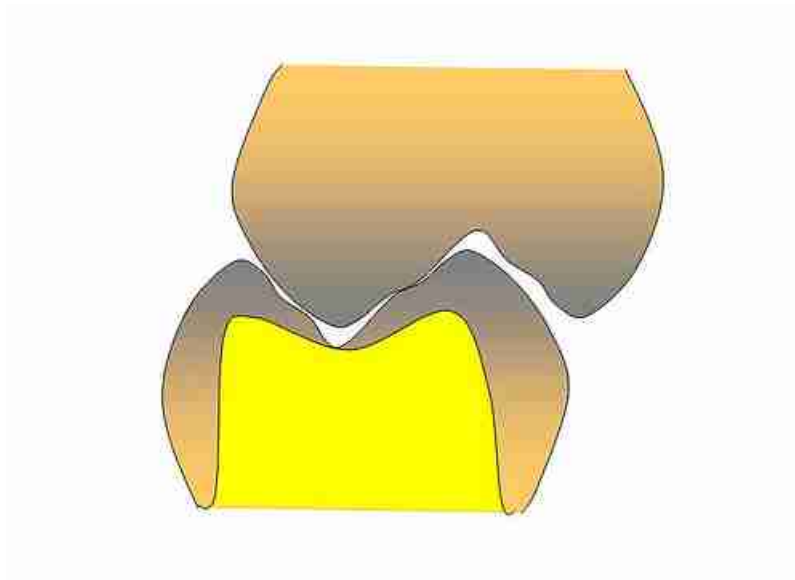


When the lower tooth is prepared it looks like this.



This looks as though we have enough clearance, if shims were to be used a 1mm shim could pull through nicely...plenty of room then?

If we then put the full contour crown back, something immediate becomes obvious...



...there has been no reduction in the central fossa area. This means the resultant crown will be flat and have a very unnatural occlusal morphology. The occlusal carving on this type of crowns are often called 'chicken scratches'!

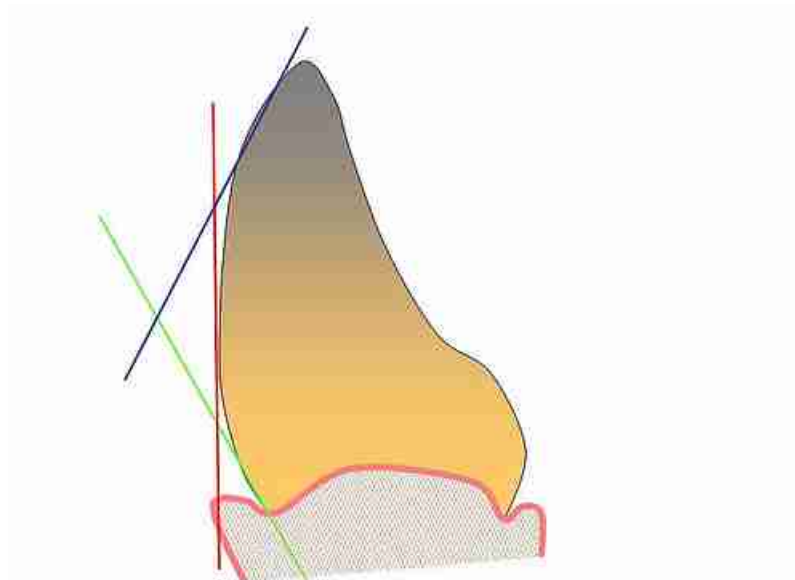
In order to have good morphology on a crown we need equal space around the whole tooth, in the mouth this may look like a lot of space, but it will allow us to replace the occlusal anatomy in a natural way.



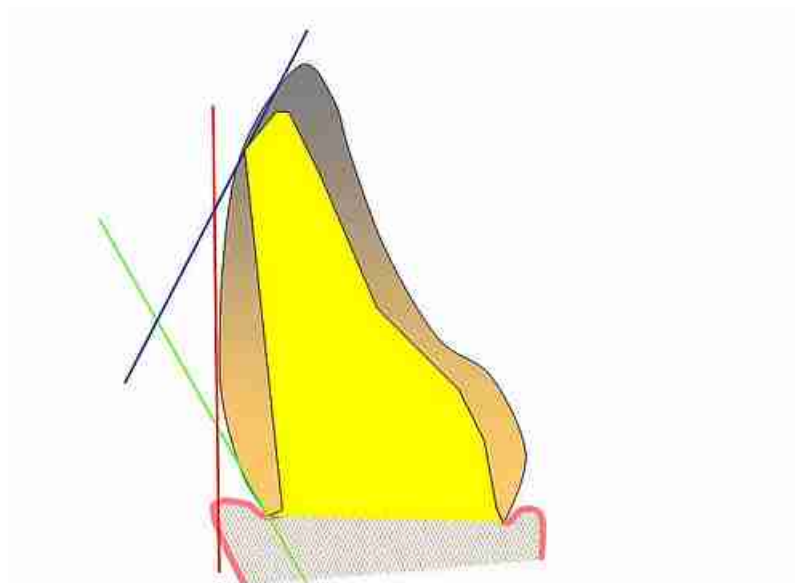
The image above shows the problem on an actual case, the occlusal height in the central fossa is limited. Whilst we have enough clearance to make the case free of the bite, we don't have enough to produce a detailed and natural anatomy.

The buccal planes

A natural tooth has 3 buccal planes shown by the red, blue and green lines in this image.



If a natural buccal surface is required on the finished crown, we need adequate space along these 3 planes. Usually the green and red planes are prepared well, however the blue plane is often not prepared, giving the following result.



Right at the incisal edge the restoration will be thin. This will result in 1 of 2 compromises:

1. The colour is good, but in order to do this the ceramic needs to be a minimum of 1.2mm, so the contour becomes compromised
2. The contour is good, but because the ceramic is so thin the colour becomes compromised

The following image shows an actual case.



This case is a 3 unit bridge, the left lateral (closest) is prepared according to the 3 buccal planes, however the right central (furthest) is missing the incisal plane reduction. This tooth will therefore be compromised.

Sharp angles

We often have cases with very sharp angles on the preparation. This can cause this area to wear very easily on the model and lead to a crown not seating well. We are of course able to silver plate dies to prevent this, but in the main this adds an unacceptable level of cost to the finished crown.



The preparation on the UL5 in the photograph shows the mesial palatal angle as being very sharp. This looks as though it is a drag, but it was confirmed that this is not the case.

These sharp areas also create weak areas in metal free restorations and can be a contributing factor in fractures, smooth preparations are even more essential when metal free is required

The next issue of these "Quality starts with you" emails will be on bite registrations

Sincerely,

Mark Oborn
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