

Case Type II: The Importance of Laboratory Communication

Brian J. Gilbert, DDS, AAACD

Accreditation Case Type II involves the indirect restoration of one or two teeth in the anterior region so that they blend imperceptibly into the surrounding dentition. It is a challenge that calls upon the clinician's ability to virtually match the adjacent natural teeth. Many factors play a role in the success of the final restoration, including preparation design, choice of restorative material, and, most importantly, effective communication with the laboratory technician.

With thoughtful case selection, as well as his use of photography and diagnostic models, Dr. Hedgecoe provided the information necessary to effectively communicate the desired esthetic end result to the laboratory technician.¹ He also demonstrated how, especially through detailed laboratory communication, he was able to achieve excellence in his final restorations of teeth #7 and #10.

According to the AACD's *Guide to Accreditation Criteria*, the biggest test of Case Type II is whether the candidate is able to utilize an indirect restoration in order to create teeth that, in effect, become an imperceptible extension of the adjacent dentition.² From the examiners' perspective, Dr. Hedgecoe passed this challenge. It is clear from his discussion on color matching that he understands the importance of properly analyzing the shade, contour, translucency, and subtleties of the adjacent teeth in creating a natural-looking restoration. It also is worth noting that even though aspects of smile design do play a role in Case Type II, the main criteria focus on characteristics of contralateral and adjacent teeth that influence the details of the final restoration.



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Figure 1: Maxillary anterior retracted right lateral view (1:1). The examiners noted a slightly lower value in the restorations as compared to the surrounding natural dentition.



Figure 2: Postoperative full-face portrait view (1:10). The treatment achieved an ideal, natural-looking result.

Although every clinician strives for an ideal result, no case can be considered perfect. Dr. Hedgecoe's case was passed by all five examiners, with the main comments focused on the following criteria:

- **Criterion #53:** *Is the color (hue, value, chroma) selection appropriate/natural, not monochromatic?* The examiners noted a value difference in #7 and #10 as compared to the adjacent dentition (Fig 1).
- **Criterion #83:** *Is the axial inclination appropriate?* The examiners expressed a minor concern regarding #7 and #10 being divergent in inclination.

As examiners, we appreciate the effort and energy Accreditation candidates like Dr. Hedgecoe expend to achieve excellent results with such a challenging case type. Dr. Hedgecoe carefully chose the right patient, focused on communicating effectively with the laboratory technician to obtain an ideal result, and took the necessary steps to utilize proper clinical techniques (Fig 2).

References

1. Willes M. Searching for ways to improve teamwork between dentists and laboratory technicians. *J Cosmetic Dent.* 2008 Fall;24(3):75-7.
2. American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD). *A guide to Accreditation criteria: contemporary concepts in smile design.* Madison (WI): AACD; 2014. 30 p. **JCD**



Dr. Gilbert is an AACD Accredited Member and an AACD Accreditation Examiner since 1998. He practices in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Disclosure: The author did not report any disclosures.