

32. Why rely on subjective shade selection?? – accuracy achieved by digital shade selection

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Achieving a satisfying morphological, optical and biological form of a restoration is one of the most important goals of esthetic dentistry and infact dentistry itself. To be particular, the major challenge faced by a dentist is accurate reproduction of the natural shade or the colour of the patients' teeth. Colour is defined as subjective perception of the quality of light and colorimetry is a scientific discipline which enables measuring and specifying the colour. Shade selection procedure in cosmetic dentistry can be done by visual or instrumental color determination. Visual color determination considers comparing the shade with already known physical standard accepted as a reference. Basically, it is the use of color atlas or shade guide in more or less controlled conditions. These technique do have their own shortcomings. Recently, various clinical colour-measuring devices have become available. These are efficacious in quantifying the natural tooth colour and also enable communication between technicians and dentists to be more uniform and accurate. A number of colour-measuring instruments are commercially available. The advantages of a digital shade-matching system include objective readings and accuracy. This paper discusses the different selection procedures involved for correct shade matching, the various systems available for the dentist, and the recent developments in the field.

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