The BEST Products for 2018

Gordon’s Clinical Observations: Every year Clinicians Report publishes an annual guide of many of the best products for the upcoming year based on evaluations from the previous twelve months. The products presented in this report have been through rigorous independent non-manufacturer sponsored evaluation and testing. CR conducts research at three levels: 1) product evaluations among 450 clinical evaluators worldwide in their own offices, 2) controlled long-term clinical research completed by TRAC Research, the human studies section of CR, and 3) Basic science laboratory testing. Classic products that have withstood the test of time and predictability are also listed in most of the categories.

Please read the following product category descriptions carefully. Products listed in this Buying Guide have been evaluated by the CR science team and CR Clinical Evaluators. Each product in this report is color-coded to identify why it has been included in this listing.

• Proven classic products and updated classics are listed alphabetically and in red. These products have been determined by research and long-term clinical use. They are often used for new product comparisons. Some categories do not have classics listed.

• Highly rated new products were identified by in-house science evaluations and CR Evaluator use during 2017. Only products with an overall grade of 3.0 or higher (4.0 highest) and an Evaluator recommendation of 70% or greater were included. Products that are not listed may not have been tested this year, may still be in testing, or were not among the highest rated. For many other excellent products not mentioned, please review previous CR Buying Guides and Clinicians Reports at www.CliniciansReport.org.

PROSTHODONTICS: FIXED/REMOVABLE

Cements: Resin-Modified Glass Ionomer and Similar

See also Clinicians Report March 2018: “RMGI Cement is #1: Are You Using It Effectively?”

GC FujiCEM 2, GC America
Second generation RMGI cement offering excellent handling, consistency and clean-up for indirect restorations.
Approximate cost per single crown: $6.30 (Automix)

GC Fuji PLUS, GC America
Resin-reinforced glass ionomer cement designed for final cementation of metal, PFM, zirconia crowns, bridges, inlays and onlays.
Approximate cost per single crown: $5.40 (Triturated Capsule)

Glass Ionomer Restorative

Fuji IX GP Extra, GC America
Packable glass ionomer restorative with higher fluoride release and extra translucency.
$6.72/Capsule

EQUIA Forte Fil (Updated Classic), GC America
Bulk fill glass ionomer (GI) restorative system that incorporates ultrafine, highly reactive glass-filler creating a higher strength GI restorative. Set time of two minutes 30 seconds.
$6.83/Capsule

77% of CR Evaluators would recommend this product.
See also Clinicians Report March 2017: “Products Rated Highly by Evaluators in CR Clinical Trials”

Resin-Modified Glass Ionomer Restorative

GC Fuji II LC, GC America
A light-cured, resin-reinforced GI restorative ideal for class V restorations, cervical erosion/abfraction, and root surface caries.
$6.43/Capsule

GC Fuji Filling LC, GC America
A light-cured resin-reinforced glass ionomer available in paste pak delivery.
Cost per gram: $20.90

This is only a portion of the original report.
WHY CR?
CR was founded in 1976 by clinicians who believed practitioners could confirm efficacy and clinical usefulness of new products and avoid both the experimentation on patients and failures in the closet. With this purpose in mind, CR was organized as a unique volunteer purpose of testing all types of dental products and disseminating results to colleagues throughout the world.

WHO FUNDS CR?
Research funds come from subscriptions to the Gordon J. Christensen Clinicians Report®. Revenue from CR's “Dentistry Update®” courses support payroll for non-clinical staff. All Clinical Evaluators volunteer their time and expertise. CR is a non-profit, educational research institute. It is not owned in whole or in part by any individual, family, or group of investors. This system, free of outside funding, was designed to keep CR’s research objective and candid.

HOW DOES CR FUNCTION?
Each year, CR tests in excess of 750 different product brands, performing about 20,000 field evaluations. CR tests all types of dental products, including materials, devices, and equipment, plus techniques. Worldwide, products are purchased from distributors, secured from companies, and sent to CR by clinicians, inventors, and patients. There is no charge to companies for product evaluations. Testing combines the efforts of 450 clinicians in 19 countries who volunteer their time and expertise, and 40 on-site scientists, engineers, and support staff. Products are subjected to at least two levels of CR’s unique three-tiered evaluation process that consists of:

1. Clinical field trials where new products are incorporated into routine use in a variety of dental practices and compared by clinicians to products and methods they use routinely.
2. Controlled clinical tests where new products are used and compared under rigorously controlled conditions, and patients are paid for their time as study participants.
3. Laboratory tests where physical and chemical properties of new products are compared to standard products.

THE PROBLEM WITH NEW DENTAL PRODUCTS.
New dental products have always presented a challenge to clinicians because, with little more than promotional information to guide them, they must judge between those that are new and better, and those that are just new. Because of the industry’s keen competition and rush to be first on the market, clinicians and their patients often become test data for new products.

Every clinician has, at one time or another, become a victim of this system. All own new products that did not meet expectations, but are stored in hope of some unknown future use, or thrown away at a considerable loss. To help clinicians make educated product purchases, CR tests new dental products and reports the results to the profession.