

Another Option

I feel that Dr. Peter J. Scelfo omitted a critical option in his letter to the editor June 2006 *Journal* "All Is Not So Simple" in which he charges that we can condemn many teeth to eventual fracture when we place over-large amalgams.

Certainly, wide MOD amalgams in which the remaining enamel is not supported by sufficient dentin can lead to fractures in subsequent years (as could wide MOD gold inlays). Certainly, amalgam does not have the edge strength of gold. Amalgam is not the material of choice for overextended restorations.

Nevertheless, we have all had large amalgams last for many years when this

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material must be used because of its lower cost. When cuspal areas are weak and undermined, the dentist should cap the cusp in amalgam. Many studies have been done showing that cusps capped in amalgam can be very long-lasting. My own experience verifies this.

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