2019 Strupp/Brumm Technique Manual

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BIOLOGIC PRIORITIES (IN ORDER OF VALUE) OF THE FIVE ELEMENTS IN RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY THAT ARE NECESSARY TO PRESERVE LONG-TERM DENTAL HEALTH

1. Bone…………cannot be replaced
2. Pulp…………cannot be replaced
3. Soft tissue……can sometimes be replaced with requisite surgery
4. Dentin………..can be easily replaced until so much is lost that the pulp must be sacrificed
5. Enamel………..can be easily replaced even if all of it is missing

If the purpose of restorative dentistry is to preserve bone, pulp and soft tissue when is the usefulness of a restoration that was placed to restore lost dentin and enamel at its end of its clinical life?

The answer depends on the care, skill and judgment of the dentist assessing the situation. Lack of the requisite care, skill and judgement in restorative dentistry results in the loss of bone, pulp and soft tissue when restorative procedures are performed at a substandard level. Understanding good clinical protocols and using them properly will result in the preservation of bone, pulp and soft tissue as well as improve the cosmetics of the case should that be a consideration.

So, what should our objective as restorative dentists be? I believe it is to teach preventive dentistry and restore teeth with protocols aimed at preservation of bone, pulp and soft tissue. Saving a bit of enamel, dentin or some of the patient’s money should not be the
determining factor in making the decision to replace worn-out restorations or those nearing their clinical end.