

Your Choice In Restorative Dental Materials

Over the past couple decades there has been an explosion in the type and quality of restorative dental materials and techniques. In fact, almost all the materials and techniques Drs. Hale learned in dental school (really not all that long ago ☺) are no longer even used. We've prepared this guide to help you decide what restorative materials you would like used in your mouth.

We'll start with two Drs. Hale "Guiding Principles" that you will probably hear them talk about.

1) "Nothing is as good as what God gave you." Despite what you may have heard from other dentists and on TV "reality" shows like Extreme Makeover, nothing we have in dentistry is as good as what you were born with.

2) "Cast gold restorations are absolutely, positively the best restorations you can put in your mouth. Their only disadvantage is that they look like gold." Drs. Hale will be happy to show you their gold restorations – they can be hidden well.

There are two categories of restorative dentistry. The first is called "direct restorations" which means the material is fabricated directly in your tooth. These are what we all call "fillings." In our practice we use tooth colored composite resin filling material for direct restorations which are fine for small to medium sized cavities in your teeth. Anything larger than that needs an "indirect restoration." These are what we call caps or crowns, onlays, inlays, veneers, etc. that are fabricated in the dental lab and then glued or bonded into your teeth. In our practice we use three different indirect restorative materials. The advantages and disadvantages of each are listed below. The main distinctions are tradeoffs between strength and beauty. Together we will decide what materials you prefer for your own mouth.

	Gold	Porcelain Fused To Gold	Pressed Ceramic
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -<i>Can't break it</i> -Conservative - less tooth drilled away -Fits the best -Lasts the longest 	-Good beauty combined with good strength	-Excellent beauty
Disadvantages	Looks like gold.	-More tooth drilled away than Gold or Pure Porcelain	-Weakest material of the three. -Pressed Ceramic
Statistics	97% of Gold Restorations are still working after 15 years	95% of Porcelain Fused To Gold Restorations are still working after 10 years	80 % of Restorations are still working after 7 years
Drs. Hale's comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Longest lasting material in dentistry bar none. -May last decades 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Good compromise between strength and beauty. -With care may last many years -When it breaks tooth is still protected by the gold underneath. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -<i>No guarantee of how long these last</i> -“When you break these you buy another one full price.”