Opalustre

"Every clinician that is tooth whitening in their practice should have a kit of Opalustre on hand for when they need it. It is the treatment of choice for enamel white stains that cannot be removed through bleaching",
Dr. Linda Greenwall, BDS, MGDS, RCS, MSc, MRD, RCS, FFGDP

This highly effective fast acting micro-abrasion slurry is described by Tony Beale

Figure 1: The Opalustre kit, showing syringes, White Mac tips and Opal Cups

Figure 2: Opalustre syringe

Opalustre and problems in removal of enamel stains

Discolouration of natural teeth can spoil an otherwise perfect dentition, and the elimination of these discolorations can prove to be difficult without the removal of areas of healthy enamel. This may also necessitate the restoration of these areas with aesthetic composites.

Opalustre is a product that is exceptionally useful when a minimally invasive technique is preferred, and in cases where superficial white, brown or multi -coloured enamel demineralisation defects of less than 0.2mm are present, can prove to be the best option for both patient and clinician, and is available from Optident Ltd.

Safe and fast application

Opalustre is a chemical and mechanical abrasion slurry, composed of 6.6% HCl (Hydrochloric Acid), together with silicone carbide microparticles (particle size, 20-160 microns), in a water soluble paste.

It does not require application via an air abrasion or polishing system, and can be applied directly to the teeth in a similar way to that used for prophylactic pastes, resulting in a natural enamel 'glazed' surface. The use of Opalustre is safe, when the correct procedures are followed, and in a detailed evaluation of Opalustre and a similar microabrasion material, it was found that Opalustre achieved the fastest results, with approximately 97% of the subjects treated being satisfied or very satisfied upon completion of the microabrasion treatment. (Ref.1)

In using Opalustre, it will only minimally alter the enamel surface contours, permitting a conservative rather than restorative approach. This can then help to avoid the need to apply aesthetic composites, and for those practitioners who offer bleaching and whitening treatments, it can be used to remove discolourations before, and after those procedures.

Figure 3: Discoloured teeth prior to treatment with Opalustre

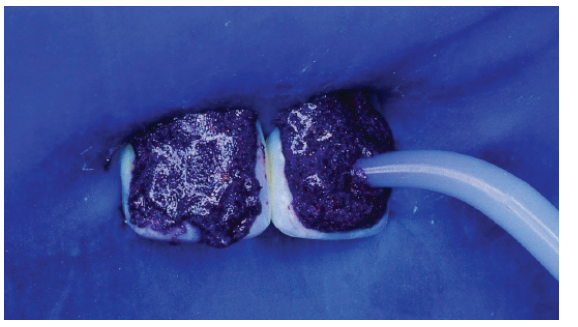

Figure 4: Aplication of Opalustre to labial tooth surfaces

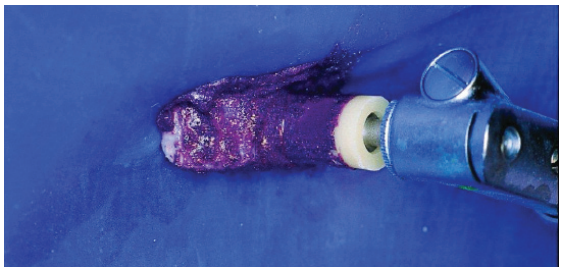

Figure 5: Use of Opal polishing cups in slow speed handpiece

Figure 6: After treating with Opalustre

The product is presented in a plastic syringe that allows 'mess - free' delivery, and has a distinctive purple colour that permits accurate placement and control. The Opalustre kit also comes complete with 20 White Mac dispensing tips and 20 Opal polishing Cups.

Using Opalustre

When applying Opalustre, clinicians must adopt correct procedures, and the product should only be used for ' in – surgery' treatments. Users must also observe the thickness of any enamel surfaces that are to be treated, and be able to judge the degree of enamel reduction that is possible.

Teeth to be treated should be isolated, and rubber dam clamps should be ligated with floss.

Prior to attachment of rubber dam to its frame, it is recommended that an even bead of Ultradent 'OraSeal ' Caulking ,(Optident Ltd), be used along the contours of the free gingivae, including interproximal areas to prevent any leakage between teeth and rubber dam.

A fine grit, water-cooled diamond bur should then be used to lightly abrade the stained area for only 5 -10 seconds. This action will help to initiate micro-reduction. A plastic White Mac Tip should then be attached to the Opalustre syringe and a 1.00mm layer of material applied to the labial surfaces. A 1: 10 reducing handpiece can then be used at a slow RPM rate, with the Opal prophy cups directly on the enamel surfaces for up to 60 seconds. Following this, the teeth can then be rinsed and evaluated, and the procedure repeated if necessary. Tooth Whitening procedures can then be used to further enhance a lightening effect.

After application of Opalustre, treated teeth should be coated with an 'in-office' topical fluoride (e.g. Ultradent Flor Opal), in a tray for a period of 30 minutes. Final clean up can be completed by vacuum, and then vacuum - rinsing with air and water prior to the removal of the rubber dam.

References

1. Loguerico A D, Correia L D, Zago C, Tagliari D, Neumann E, Gomes O M M, Barbieri D B, Reis A. - 'Clinical effectiveness of two Microabrasion materials for the removal of Enamel Fluorosis stains'. Clinical Research, Operative Dentistry, Vol. 32-6, 531-538, 2007

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