Suggested Prep Guidelines and Bur Choices

TOOTH PREPARATION GUIDELINES FOR ZIRCONIA CROWNS

Tooth Preparation Guidelines
- Uniform, circumferential, tooth reduction of 1.0-1.5 mm
- Circumferential chamfer
- Occlusal reduction of 1.5-2.0 mm
- Rounded line angles
- Reduce linguals of anterior with football diamond to create concave lingual

Why Tooth Preparation Design is Important
- Uniform reduction results in optimum ceramic strength
- Adequate reduction leads to better esthetics
- Smooth edges result in lower stress
- Lower stress decreases potential for fracture
- Ceramic restorations require a passive fit
- Scanners read smooth preparations more accurately

Tooth reduction for shaded zirconia-core crowns is less than that for PFM or traditional all-ceramic crowns. Zirconia is very strong (>900 MPa) and an opaque layer is not required.

Figure 1. Tooth reduction guidelines for anterior (1A) and posterior (1B) teeth.

Figure 2. Sample preparations for anterior (2A) and posterior (2B) teeth.
Anterior Preparations

- Incisal Reduction - Long Round End Taper, Medium or Coarse
- Facial Reduction - Long Round End Taper, Medium or Coarse
- Interproximal - Long Round End Taper, Medium or Coarse
- Ligual Reduction - Football, Medium or Coarse
- Rounding Corners - Long Round End Taper, Fine
- Margin Finish - End Cut, Fine

Facial Reduction  Lingual Reduction  Margin Finish

Posterior Preparations

- Occlusal Reduction - Wide Chamfer, Barrel or Football, Medium or Coarse
- Axial Wall Reduction - Narrow Chamfer, Medium or Coarse
- Interproximal - Long Round End Taper, Medium or Coarse
- Rounding Corners - Long Round End Taper, Fine
- Margin Finish - End Cut, Fine

Occlusal Reduction  Axial Wall Reduction  Interproximal