RCHSR – Fields of Research

1. Restorative dentistry
1.3. Atraumatic restorative treatment (ART) in public oral health services

Atraumatic Restorative Treatment (ART) was introduced in the South African public oral health service and the following observations were made:

- **ART implementation barriers:** One year after ART training completion high patient load/work load, followed by insufficient provision of materials/instruments, were the two most inhibiting barriers to the use of ART in the public oral health services. Dentists' perceptions of low clinical skill levels in performing ART confidently inhibited the use of ART in primary teeth in children [1].

- **Operator acceptance:** Five years after training, ART had been used consistently in this selected group of operators as the predominant restorative treatment used for primary teeth and showed a significant annual increase in permanent teeth [2].

- **Patient acceptance:** Dental anxiety scores were lower both in child and in adult patients treated by ART than in those who received traditional restorative treatments [3].

- **Financial efficacy:** The annual capital cost for the ART approach is approximately 50% of the other two options (e.g. per multiple surface restoration ART = R1.58; amalgam and composite resin restorative procedures: R3.12 and R3.10 respectively), despite the fact that ART restorations are rendered in a modern dental setting [4].

References


