



MDT Patric Freudenthal (Sweden) graduated as a dental technician in 1989 at the University of Malmö, Sweden. Before that, he worked as a dental assistant between 1984-1986. After his graduation, he worked as a technician for 10 years before starting his own lab in Ystad focusing on bioinert materials. Since 2004, Patric is lecturing and giving trainings and workshops on different topics, with a focus on function and aesthetics using the latest technologies. Patric is working at Unique Dental (member of Corus Group) in the Department of Esthetics and is part of the Corus Academy Nordic.



MDT Iñigo Garcia Gonzalez (Spain) has been working as a dental technician since 1992, specialising in implant prosthetics, aesthetics and CAD/CAM technologies. Since 2016, he is the owner and technical director of LABIGAR dental laboratory. He has lectured on various conferences and gives trainings on zirconia treatments with the Initial system and the Initial IQ ONE SQIN Concept.



MDT João Paulo Martins (United Kingdom) started to work during summer holidays in a local dental laboratory when he was merely 16 years old. After graduating as a dental technician, he first started working with his parents – both dentists – in a small dental lab inside the practice. By 2013, he moved to London to pursue his career where he opened the dental laboratory Digital Dental Lab in 2020.

The ultimate customisation with a reduced inventory: Initial Zirconia Coloring Liquid

An interview with MDT Patric Freudenthal (Sweden), MDT Iñigo Garcia Gonzalez (Spain), MDT João Paulo Martins (United Kingdom), MDT Stefan Roozen (Austria) and CDT Diederik Hellingh (Belgium)

Initial IQ ONE SQIN is a revolutionary ceramic microlayering system that enhances the aesthetic quality of all-ceramics restorations such as zirconia. By applying a thin, durable ceramic layer over the zirconia base, it achieves a natural look that seamlessly blends with the patient's natural dentition. The precision of Initial IQ ONE SQIN ensures exceptional translucency, colour matching, and structural integrity.

We're now introducing Initial Zirconia Coloring Liquid, designed to pre-colour zirconia frameworks before the final characterisation. Initial Zirconia Coloring Liquid provides precise colour control, ensuring the zirconia perfectly matches the desired shade. It fits seamlessly with the Initial Zirconia Disk HT, a universal white zirconia that offers an ideal balance between translucency, strength and aesthetic possibilities.

These products represent significant advancements in zirconia restorations. They enable dental professionals to deliver restorations that are both functionally superior and aesthetically remarkable, ensuring every patient receives the best possible care.



MDT Stefan Roozen (Austria) has been a master dental technician since 2003. He focused his career on complex prosthetic reconstructions and aesthetic restorations since starting in 1995. He has experience in ceramics, CAD/CAM technology, prosthetics, and implantology, and frequently lectures at international dental courses and conferences in Europe, Asia, and beyond. Stefan has also contributed to various dental publications and is currently advancing his knowledge in digital dental technology at the Carinthian University of Applied Sciences.



CDT Diederik Hellingh (Belgium) is Business Unit Manager Prosthetics at GC Europe.

1. What was your first thought when you first heard about the new Initial Zirconia Coloring Liquid?

João Paulo Martins: It was great news as I'm a zirconia colouring liquids user and believer

Patric Freudenthal: Yes, and it was exciting to get a colouring liquid that match the Initial concept.

Stefan Roozen: I think it is a very good fit for the Initial IQ ONE SQIN philosophy.



Initial Zirconia Coloring Liquid set

2. What specific problem or need does Initial Zirconia Liquid helps you with?

Stefan Roozen: I find it particularly advantageous for the storage. Every multi- or monoshade can be achieved with one type of zirconia disk. This way, we can avoid a large accumulation of blocks and disks.

Iñigo Garcia Gonzalez: With these liquids we are able to produce a standard colour starting from translucent white zirconia. On top of that, you can do specific colourings that you cannot achieve with precoloured zirconia.

Diederik Hellingh: The Initial Zirconia Coloring Liquid system allows the replication of natural tooth colours and effects prior to sintering whereafter the restorations can be finished even faster with the Initial IQ ONE SQIN system. Together, they facilitate a highly aesthetic outcome, with natural-looking shade nuances radiating from within in an absolutely efficient manner.

3. What features or aspects of our product do you find most appealing?

Patric Freudenthal: I particularly like the effect colours. They are really good.

Iñigo Garcia Gonzalez: I like the simplicity of the set. We can rely on the ABCD system and various effect colours and markers to choose your identification.

Diederik Hellingh: We work closely with opinion leaders to quickly respond to the most important needs in the lab. Each Initial product on its own facilitates the workflow in a certain way, but used together, you reach maximal efficiency in the most qualitative way.

4. Can you describe a situation or scenario where you imagine our product being particularly useful?

Patric Freudenthal: It's good for any case that requires customisation. Even when using multilayered zirconia, it can be useful to "pimp" it with effect colours.

Stefan Roozen: It's nice to create a base colour for white zirconia, especially the white 3Y-TZP zirconia. Furthermore, I find it useful for creating effects, for example to add chroma in the cervical area or on the canines, or for a bluish, absorbent effect at the incisor part.

João Paulo Martins: It's useful for every case! Whether it's a full arch or a crown... and it's definitely useful for colour matching a single central incisor.



5. Most labs use multilayered zirconia disks – is there still a need for colouring liquids?

Patric Freudenthal: Yes, absolutely!

Iñigo Garcia Gonzalez: In case you just want something standard, probably not, since you can use multilayered zirconia. But colouring liquids give many more customisation options.

João Paulo Martins: I always use them, even on multilayered zirconia.



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You can either paint or dip with the same set of colouring liquids.
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6. Do you prefer the painting or the dipping technique (or a combination of both)?

Iñigo Garcia Gonzalez: I prefer to paint. It is more controllable and the intensity can be gradually increased with the number of strokes.

João Paulo Martins: me too.

Stefan Roozen: I use both, depending on the veneering technique I'm using. With a full layering, I use the dipping-technique. When I micro-layer with ONE SQIN, it depends a bit from case to case. And for my monolithics, I use the painting technique. It's useful to be able to do both with the same system.

Diederik Hellingh: Following our „less is more“ Initial IQ philosophy, we've developed a single product for both application methods: the painting technique for ultimate customisation and the dipping technique for fast, consistent results. Depending on the case, both techniques have their benefits.

7. Do these colouring liquids improve your workflow (speed)?

Patric Freudenthal: It improves the esthetic outcome of the zirconia. And then make the mono or micro layering easier.

Stefan Roozen: These colouring liquids provide a good base colour, which facilitates the further characterisation. Then, you can use de Initial Zr-FS or the ONE SQIN concept to finish it.

João Paulo Martins: I have always been working with colouring liquids. To me it is not so much about time but rather about the control you have over the chroma and value.

Diederik Hellingh: The development was focused on obtaining every shade quickly and easily. With fewer liquids and a simple dilution chart, customers can achieve all 16 V-shades in no time. For greater gains with a smaller inventory.

8. Is there anything else you'd like to share about your experience with Initial Zirconia Coloring Liquid?

Patric Freudenthal: For large frameworks, the staining technique for a white zirconia is rather time-consuming, but then the dipping technique could work. Oh, and the pink gingival colour is one of the best I've ever tested and worked with.

Iñigo Garcia Gonzalez: The advantages of white zirconia and multilayer zirconia can be combined. The biggest advantage of white zirconia is not needing a large stock. And the advantage of multilayered zirconia is its precolouring and the increase in translucency towards the incisal part. My intention is to start from A1,B1,C1,D1 multilayered disks. A2, A3, B2, B3,... and so on can be reached with the colouring liquids. In this way, our stock is reduced but we have this transition in translucency towards incisal and already an extent of precolouring.



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Left: white zirconia, unsintered; middle: sintered with Initial Zirconia Coloring Liquids; right: finished with the Initial IQ ONE SQIN concept. Courtesy of MDT Stefan Roozen, Austria.
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