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The SmART restorative solution: a case series.

By Dr Khaled Aly Nour BDS, MSc, PhD, Egypt.

Before the development of glass hybrids, commercially known as EQUIA Forte/EQUIA Forte HT (GC), glass ionomer cement were the only restorative in dentistry whose mechanical and optical properties improved by the day¹. These classes of brilliant restoratives possess an array of unique properties that are not available in any other restorative and entitle them as a smart solution for a large variety of clinical challenges where any other material would fail.

They are the only materials that can bond to caries-affected tooth tissues in a similar way as to sound tooth tissues^{2,3}, which make them the best restorative option to seal interfaces with demineralized and caries-affected enamel or dentine. They can be inserted in bulk without evoking destructive shrinkage forces that may rupture the attained seal or crack any undermined enamel⁴⁻⁷. Therefore, they offer a smart conservative solution in a number of cases with extensive caries

destruction where resort to indirect restorations will be inevitable in case the weakened enamel is removed. They also possess an anti-cariogenic effect which is advantageous in high-caries-risk challenges^{8,9} and in sealing caries-prone cracks and defects whenever their removal would complicate the cavity design¹⁰. Glass hybrids and glass ionomers are the only pulp-friendly restoratives that can achieve restoration and pulp protection in one simple step and are



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