

# Understanding Light Curing Improved Clinical Success

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**View2Learn**





# Special thank you to

Richard Price, DDS, MSc, PhD  
Professor, Prosthodontics  
& Biomedical Engineering



# Disclosure

- Advisory Board BlueLight Analytics
- San Francisco Giants fan
- Supporter of Baltimore Orioles



# What are we light curing?

- Adhesives
- Restorative composites
- Sealants
- Ceramic veneers
- Ceramic inlays/onlays
- Fiber posts
- Bases-liners
- Tray materials
- Denture base materials
- Prosthodontic provisional materials
- Desensitizing agents
- Bleaching agents

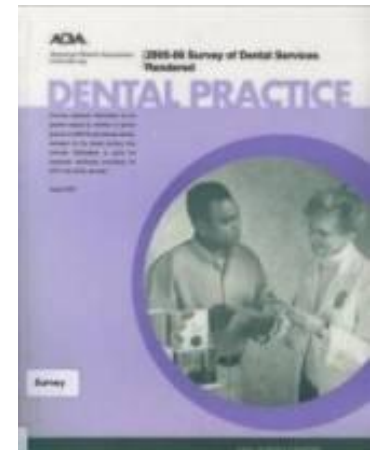




# Majority of direct restorations placed *Composite Resins*

- 130,054 General Dentists in US
- >122 million direct resin restorations
- **Plus veneers + orthodontics**

All used light curing!



# National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research, 2009

“Despite steady progress in learning how to better **formulate and cure**, or harden, dental composites... Studies have shown that dental resin composites have an average replacement time of 5.7 years due to secondary decay and fracture of the restoration.”





# Understanding Light Curing

# Science of light curing

- Yap AU, Wong NY, Siow KS. Composite cure and shrinkage associated with high intensity curing light. *Oper Dent.* 2003; 28:357-64.
- Schattenberg A, Lichtenberg D, Stender E, Willershausen B, et al. Minimal exposure time of different LED-curing devices. *Dent Mater.* 2008; 24:1043-9.
- Fan PL, Schumacher RM, Azzolin K, Gerary R, et al. Curing-light intensity and depth of cure of resin based composites tested according to international standards. *J Am Dent Assoc.* 2002; 133:429-34.
- Yap AU, Seneviratne C. Influence of light energy density on effectiveness of composite cure. *Oper Dent.* 2001; 26:460-6.
- Calheiros FC, Kawano Y, Stansbury JW, Braga RR. Influence of radiant exposure on contraction stress, degree of conversion and mechanical properties of resin composites. *Dent Mater.* 2006; 22:799-803.
- Yap AU, Dunn WJ, Patel AB, Swanson T. Effect of curing





# Composite Use

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- 122,666,950 direct resin restorations a year  
ADA 2005-6
- One third of dentists have eliminated amalgam.  
Christensen, Dental Economics Jan 2011
- In the last 12 months in the U.S., the ratio of composite placed compared to amalgam placed was two Class II composites for every one Class II amalgam.  
Limoli and Associates, Oct 2010



# Did you know?

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- 122,666,950 direct resin restorations a year: ADA 2005-6
- 50 working weeks a year x 5 days = 250 working days
- 490,667 resins a day
- 490,667 times a curing light was used
- 490,667 times @ \$200 each
- **\$98,133,560 a day in the US ALONE**
- **\$24.5 BILLION a YEAR**

Light-curing... so easy a  
caveman can do it!





# The Problem

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Process of “light-curing” is treated with “*little regard*” to the exacting science it really is.

“*Too easy*” and minimal attempts **seem** to produce an acceptably “hard” restoration.



# Understanding the challenge

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Teach students-clinicians how to use their light properly and what affects the extent of cure of *THEIR RESTORATIONS* :

What “spectral output” of the light means

What are the “spectral needs” of the resin

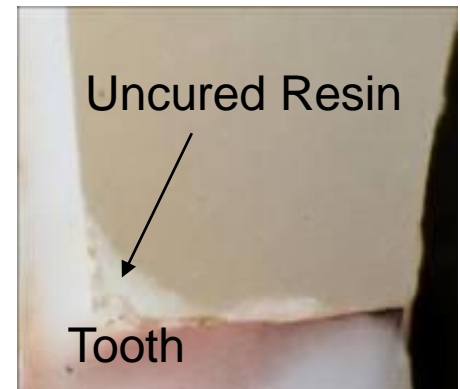
What is the difference between irradiance and energy density

How exposure duration and spectral delivery affect final restoration cure

# The Problem:

## not curing composite completely

- Lower bond strength
- Increased microleakage
- Increased recurrent caries
- Increased staining-color changes
- Increased wear



■ Premature restoration failure!

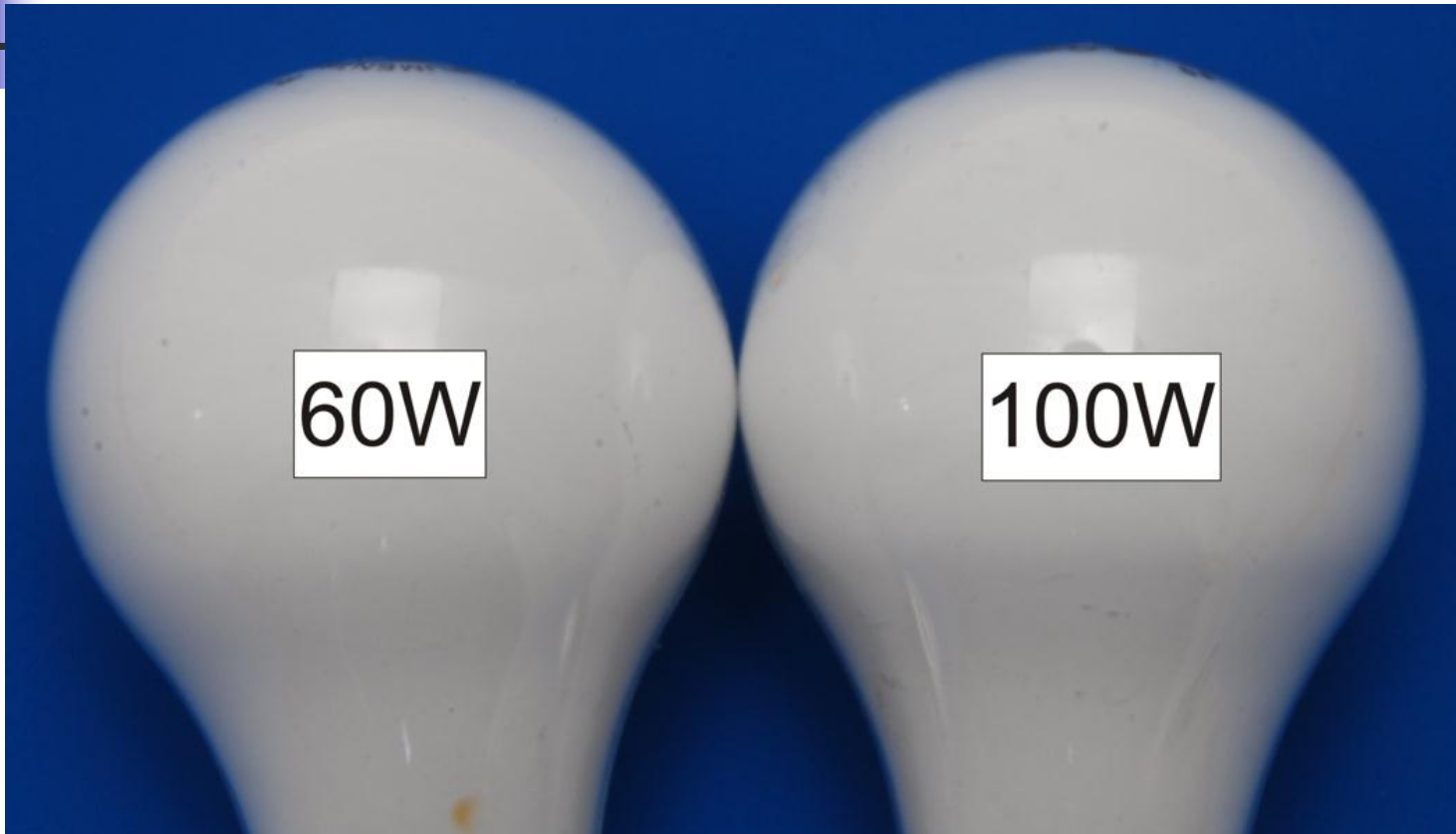


# Not all curing lights are the same



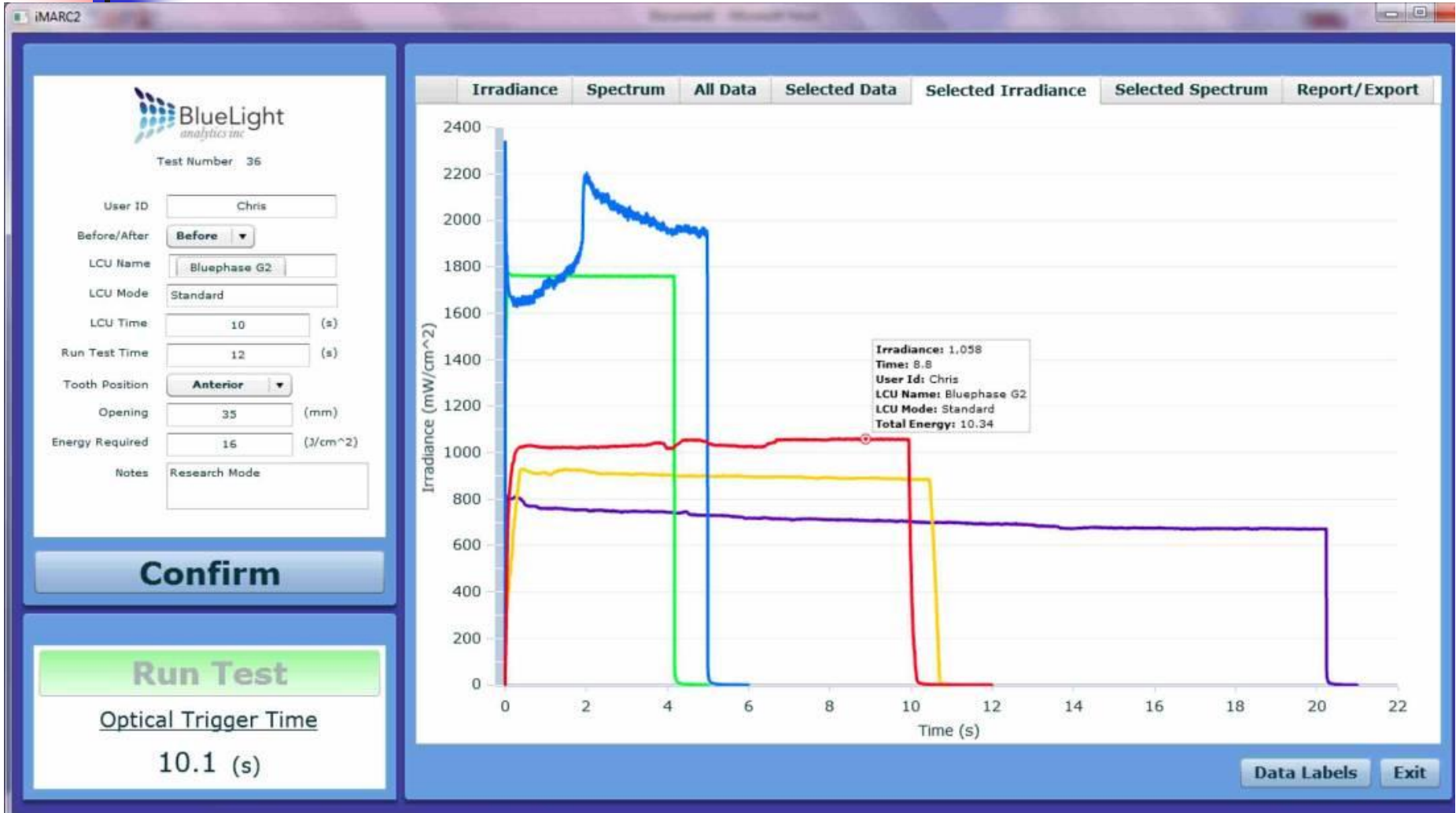
*Understanding  
The Differences*

# Power = mWatts



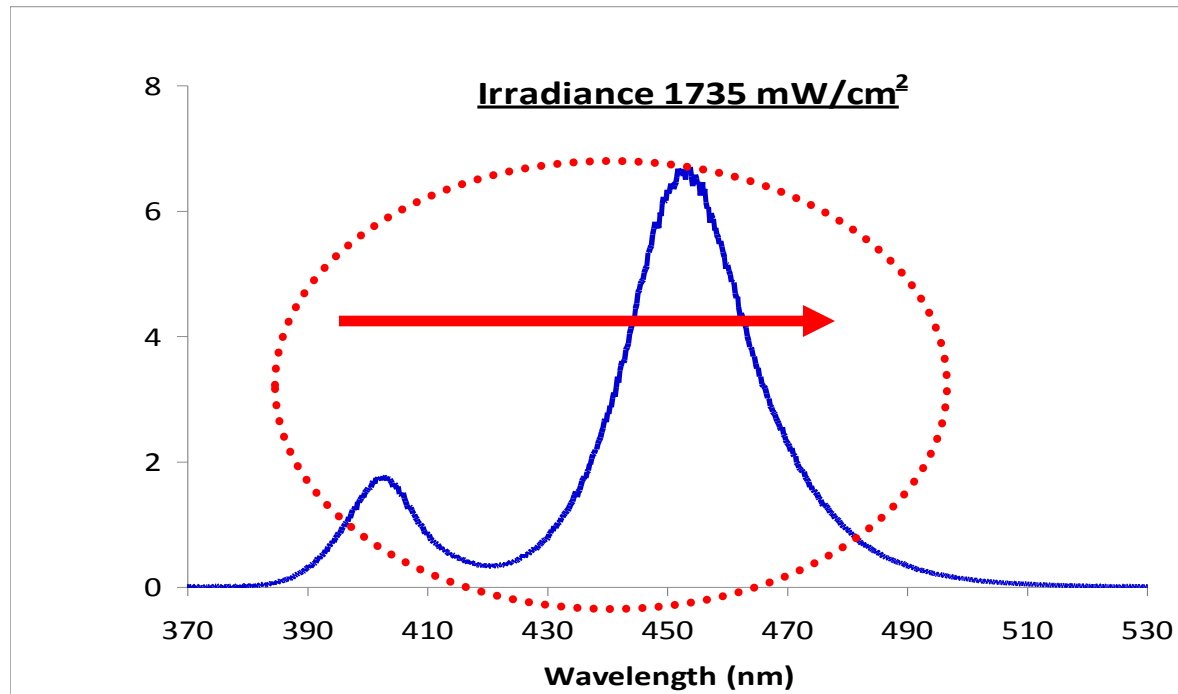
# Irradiance

(Power/Unit Area)  $\text{mW}/\text{cm}^2$



# Spectral Radiant Power

mWatts/nm



# Understanding

- Power: mWatts
- Irradiance: (Power/Unit Area)  $\text{mW}/\text{cm}^2$
- Spectral Radiant Power:  $\text{mWatts}/\text{nm}$
- Energy Density = Irradiance x Time: **8 - 16  $\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$**

**3M ESPE**

**Filtek™ Supreme Ultra  
Universal Restorative**

7. **Curing:** This product is intended to be cured by exposure to a halogen or LED light with a minimum intensity of  $400\text{mW}/\text{cm}^2$  in the 400-500nm range. Cure each increment by exposing its entire surface to a high intensity visible light source, such as a 3M ESPE curing light. Hold the light guide tip as close to the restorative as possible during light exposure.

Shades	Incremental depth	Cure time
Body, Enamel, Translucent	2.0mm	20 sec.
Dentin, A6B and B5B	1.5mm	40 sec.



# MARC (BlueLight Analytics)

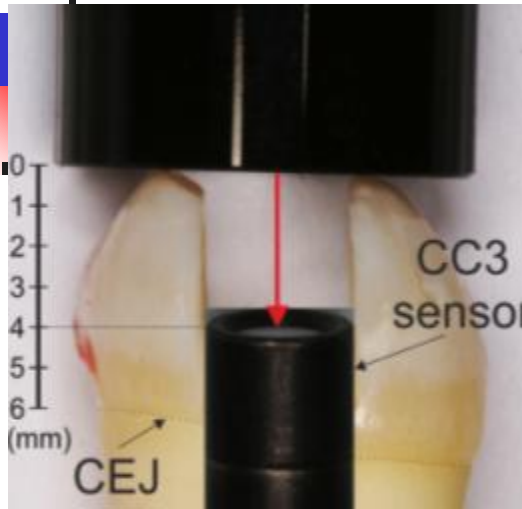
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- BlueLight makes MARC™ – Managing Accurate Resin Curing.
- MARC™ was invented by Dr. Richard Price and his research associate, Chris Felix, at Dalhousie University.
- MARC™ is the first and only scientifically accurate, clinically relevant and easy-to-use energy measurement system for measuring what resin actually receives.



# Who is MARC™?

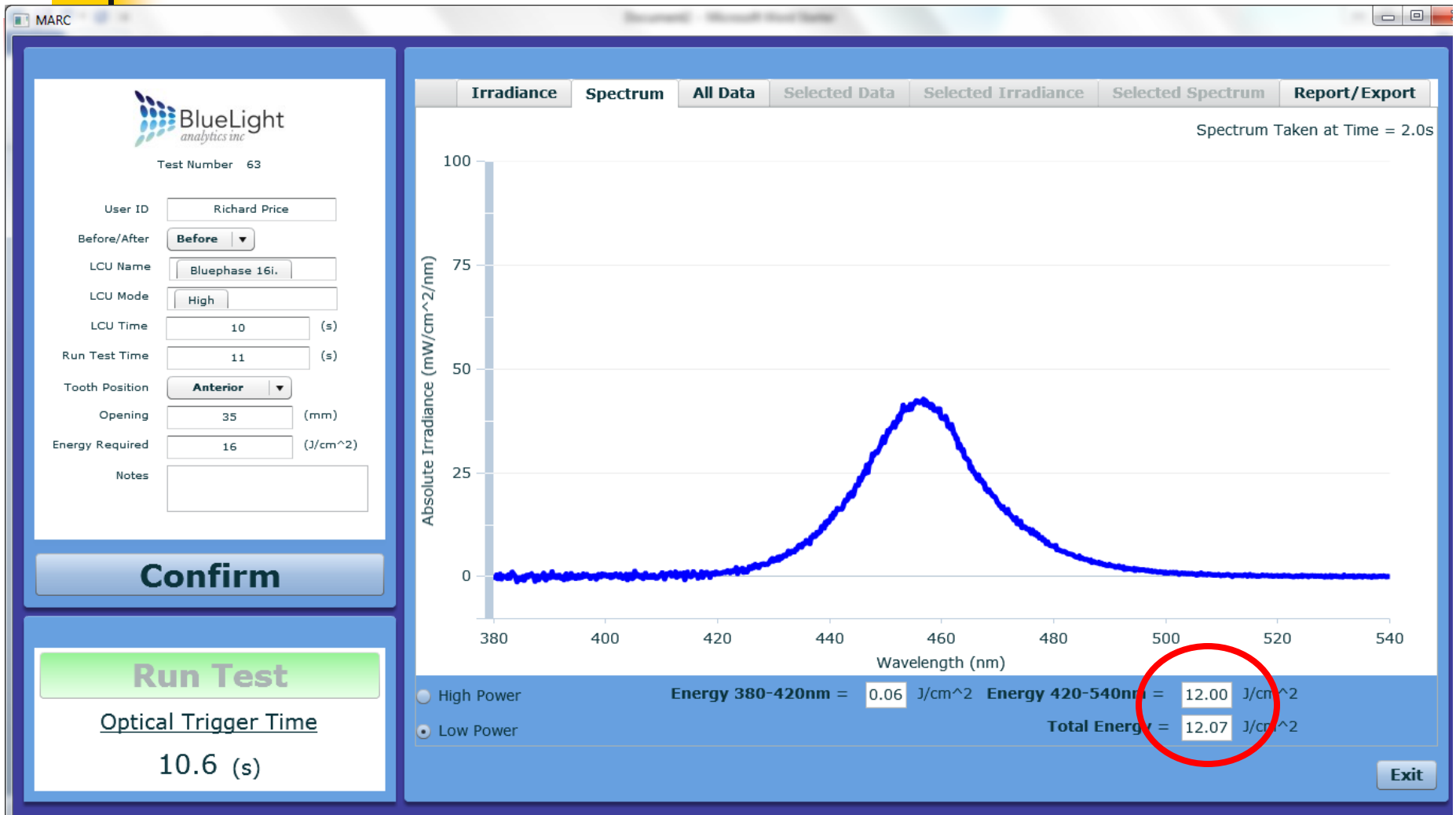
MARC™ Patient Simulator  
*quantifies energy delivery to resin*



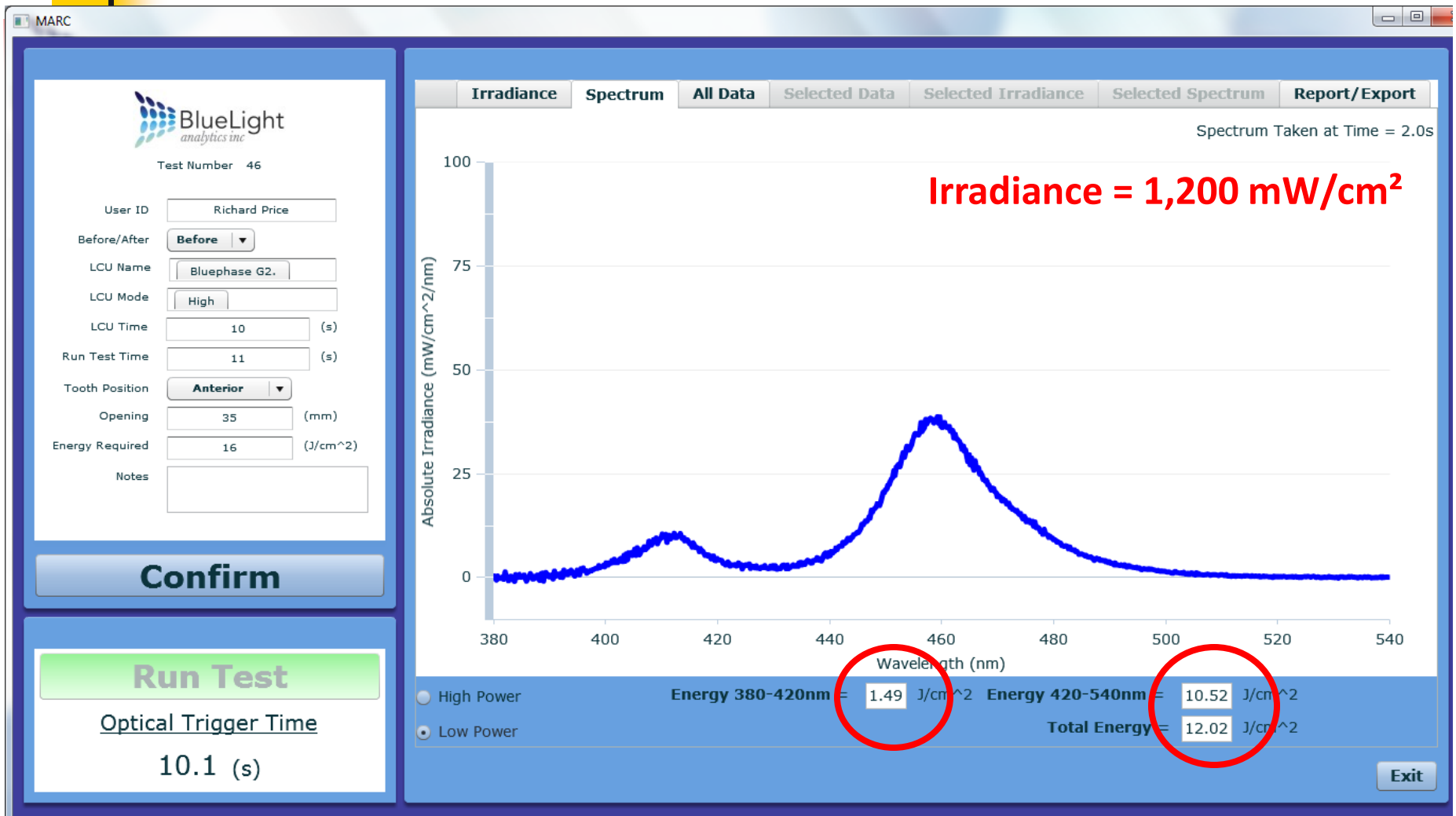
Scientifically accurate,  
clinically relevant  
& easy-to-use

Consistent calibration enables  
**apples:apples** comparisons

# LIGHT SPECTRUM



# LIGHT SPECTRUM



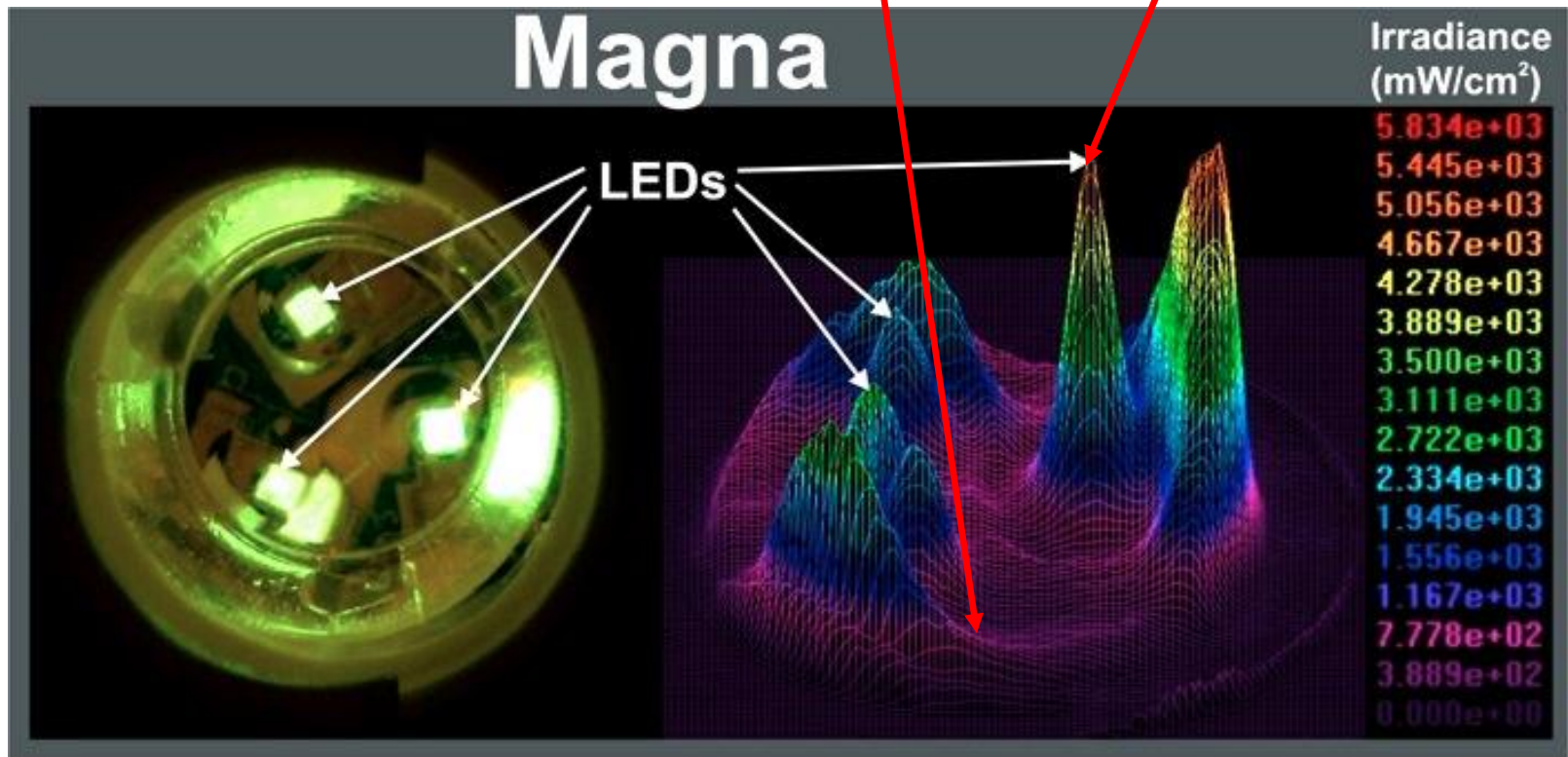
# Irradiance not uniform

What is the beam profile?

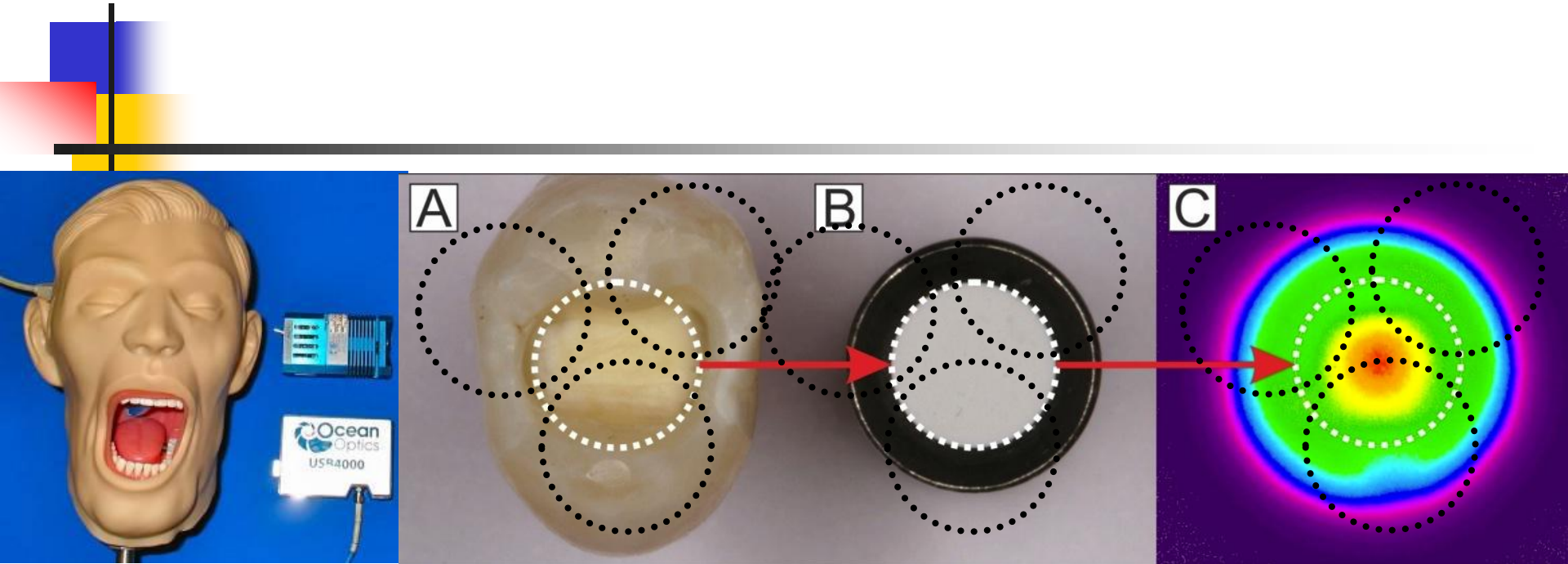
1200 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>

388 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>

5,834 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>

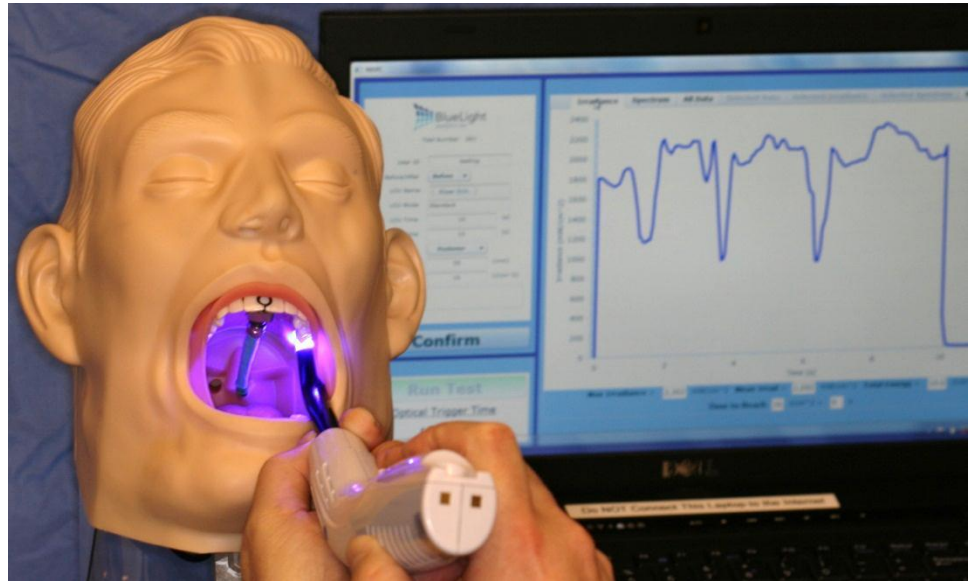


# Detects uneven beam distribution hot spots-cold spots





# Operator technique evaluation







# Bottom line...

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How do we make the science relevant and create value during a student's/clinician's education?

For a clinical procedure  
light curing = 15-60 sec







Understanding leads to  
improved clinical success

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**Light energy matters!**

# Safety concerns



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and the National Institutes of Health

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[JAMA](#). 2006 Sep 27;296(12):1461; author reply 1461.  
[JAMA](#). 2006 Sep 27;296(12):1462; author reply 1462-3.

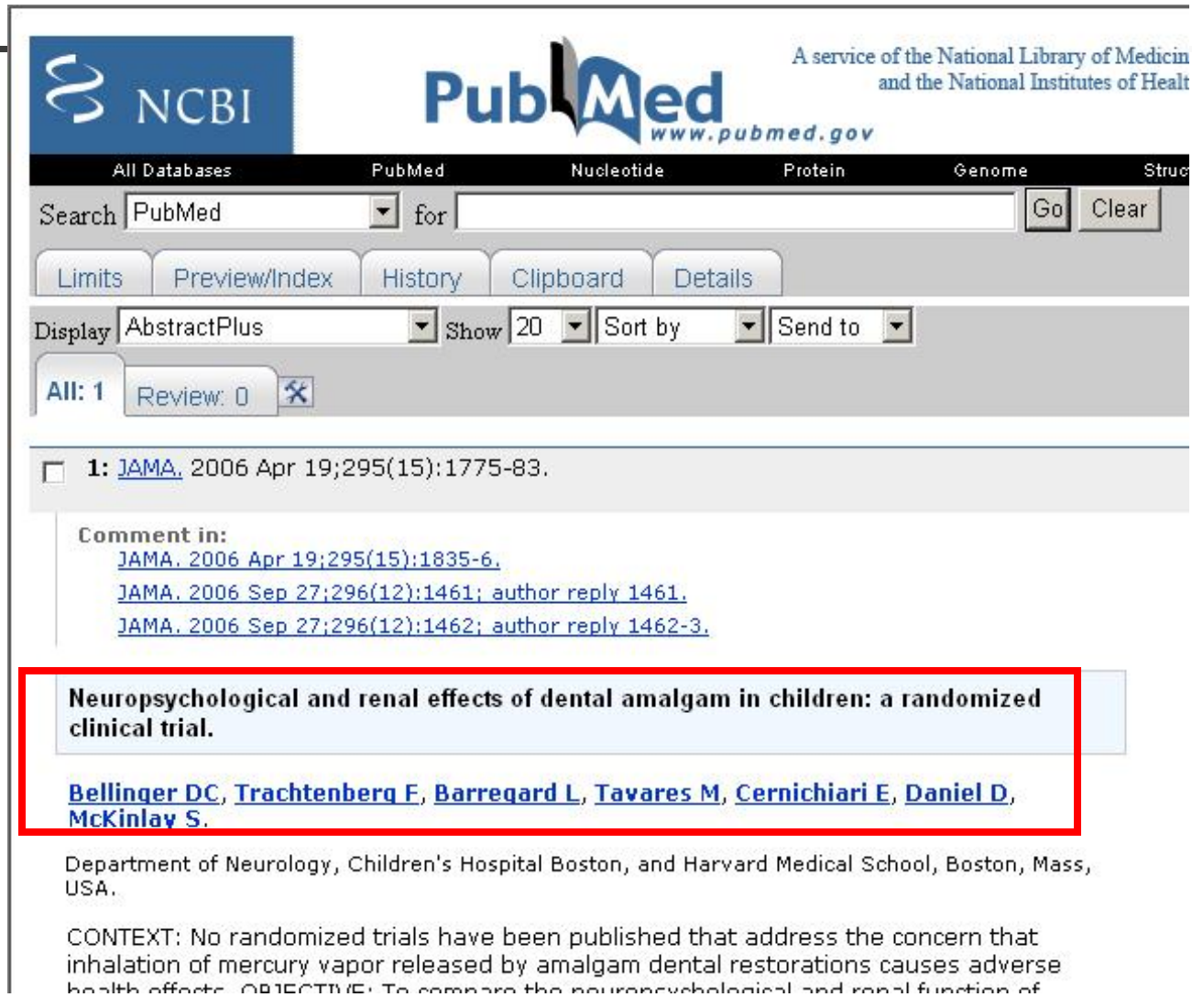
**Neurobehavioral effects of dental amalgam in children: a randomized clinical trial.**

[DeRouen TA](#), [Martin MD](#), [Leroux BG](#), [Townes BD](#), [Woods JS](#), [Leitao J](#), [Castro-Caldas A](#), [Luis H](#), [Bernardo M](#), [Rosenbaum G](#), [Martins IP](#).

Department of Dental Public Health Sciences, School of Dentistry, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, USA. [derouen@u.washington.edu](mailto:derouen@u.washington.edu)

CONTEXT: Dental (silver) amalgam is a widely used restorative material containing 50% elemental mercury that emits small amounts of mercury vapor. No randomized clinical trials have determined whether there are significant health risks associated with this low-level

# Safety concerns



The screenshot shows the NCBI PubMed website interface. At the top, the NCBI logo is on the left, and the PubMed logo with the URL [www.pubmed.gov](http://www.pubmed.gov) is in the center. To the right, it states "A service of the National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health". Below the logos is a navigation bar with tabs for "All Databases", "PubMed", "Nucleotide", "Protein", "Genome", and "Struct". The search bar contains "PubMed" in the dropdown and "for" in the input field, with "Go" and "Clear" buttons. Below the search bar are buttons for "Limits", "Preview/Index", "History", "Clipboard", and "Details". The display settings show "AbstractPlus" in the dropdown, "Show 20" in the dropdown, "Sort by" in the dropdown, and "Send to" in the dropdown. The results section shows "All: 1" and "Review: 0" with a refresh icon. The first result is a checkbox followed by "1: [JAMA](#), 2006 Apr 19;295(15):1775-83." Below this is a "Comment in:" section with three links: "[JAMA](#), 2006 Apr 19;295(15):1835-6.", "[JAMA](#), 2006 Sep 27;296(12):1461; author reply 1461.", and "[JAMA](#), 2006 Sep 27;296(12):1462; author reply 1462-3." The main title of the article, "Neuropsychological and renal effects of dental amalgam in children: a randomized clinical trial.", is highlighted with a red box. Below the title are the authors: "Bellinger DC, Trachtenberg F, Barrecard L, Tavares M, Cernichiari E, Daniel D, McKinlay S." Below the authors is the affiliation: "Department of Neurology, Children's Hospital Boston, and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass, USA." At the bottom, the "CONTEXT" section states: "No randomized trials have been published that address the concern that inhalation of mercury vapor released by amalgam dental restorations causes adverse health effects. OBJECTIVE: To compare the neuropsychological and renal function of"

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**Neuropsychological and renal effects of dental amalgam in children: a randomized clinical trial.**

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Department of Neurology, Children's Hospital Boston, and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass, USA.

CONTEXT: No randomized trials have been published that address the concern that inhalation of mercury vapor released by amalgam dental restorations causes adverse health effects. OBJECTIVE: To compare the neuropsychological and renal function of



# THE



# SUN

## ELVIS & THE BSO

COSTELLO TO PERFORM HIS OWN CLASSICAL COMPOSITION

>>>> IN TODAY



## INDIANS RIP O'S, 15-1

STARTER BRUCE CHEN GIVES UP 8 RUNS IN ROUT; NATIONALS TOPPLE PHILLIES, 10-3 >>>> IN SPORTS



## NEW MOMS FIRMS DON'T WANT TO LOSE PRIZED WORKERS

>>>> IN WORKING

## Doubts are raised on re-regulation

BY PAUL ADAMS  
[SUN REPORTER]

Re-regulating Maryland's power industry might be politically popular in the face of rising rates, experts say, but would be legally complicated, potentially costly and would not necessarily result in lower energy prices.

The idea of re-regulation has gained steam during the past month as the prospect of a 72 percent rate increase this summer by Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. all but consumed the recent session of the Maryland legislature.

On Monday, Douglas M. Duncan, the

Montgomery County executive and Democratic gubernatorial candidate, called for re-regulating the power industry and imposing rate limits, setting himself apart from the other major candidates in the race, Republican Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. and Democratic Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley.

Two bills introduced during the legislative session also called for some form of re-regulation to counter rising energy costs, but they fizzled as officials focused on the more immediate problem of easing this summer's rate increase.

Ehrlich is negotiating with Constellation Energy Group Inc., the parent of BGE, on a possible phase-in for the rate increase.

[Please see POWER, 7A]

### RATES RECAP

● In 1999, Maryland lawmakers deregulated the electric industry and imposed a cap on BGE rates for six years as part of the transition to free markets. With those caps expiring, customers face a possible 72 percent price increase this summer because BGE must pay more for the power it delivers.

● Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan, a Democratic gubernatorial candidate, has called for re-regulating the power industry and imposing rate caps.

● Supporters of re-regulation say it could result in lower costs by removing free-market price volatility and putting limits on power suppliers' charges.

● Skeptics say it would be costly and legally questionable to try to buy back power plants that BGE and other utilities had to give up as part of deregulation, and that building plants would cost billions of dollars. Electricity might end up costing more as a result, they say.

## SILVER FILLINGS FOUND KID-SAFE

Traditional tooth care contains mercury but doesn't harm children, major studies indicate

BY JONATHAN BOR  
[SUN REPORTER]

## Rare whale lands in rarer venue: Baltimore





# DENTAL RESEARCH & APPLICATIONS

*Practical interpretations of current investigations.*

Commentary by Howard E. Strassler, DMD

Howard E. Strassler, DMD

Professor and Director of Operative Dentistry, Department of Endodontics,  
Prosthodontics and Operative Dentistry University of Maryland Dental School, Baltimore, Maryland

## Neurobehavioral Effects of Dental Amalgam in Children: A Randomized Clinical Trial

DeRouen TA, Martin MD, Leroux BG, et al. JAMA. 2006;295(15):1784-1792.

### ABSTRACT

**CONTEXT:** Dental (silver) amalgam is a widely used restorative material containing 50% elemental mercury that emits small amounts of mercury vapor. No randomized clinical trials have determined whether there are significant health risks associated with this low-level mercury exposure. **OBJECTIVE:** To assess the safety of dental amalgam restorations in children. **DESIGN:** A randomized clinical trial in which children requiring dental restorative treatment were randomized to either amalgam for posterior restorations or resin composite instead of amalgam. Enrollment commenced February 1997, with annual follow-up for 7 years concluding in July 2005. **SETTING AND PARTICIPANTS:** A total of 507 children in Lisbon, Portugal, aged 8 to 10 years with at least 1 carious lesion on a permanent tooth, no previous exposure to amalgam, urinary mercury level < 10 µg/L, blood lead level < 15 µg/dL, Comprehensive Test of Nonverbal

## Neuropsychological and Renal Effects of Dental Amalgam in Children: A Randomized Clinical Trial

Bellinger DC, Trachtenberg F, Barregard L, et al. JAMA. 2006;295(15):1775-1783.

### ABSTRACT

**CONTEXT:** No randomized trials have been published that address the concern that inhalation of mercury vapor released by amalgam dental restorations causes adverse health effects. **OBJECTIVE:** To compare the neuropsychological and renal function of children whose dental caries were restored using amalgam or mercury-free materials. **DESIGN AND SETTING:** The New England Children's Amalgam Trial was a 2-group randomized safety trial involving 5 community health dental clinics in Boston, Mass, and 1 in Farmington, Me, between September 1997 and March 2005. **PARTICIPANTS AND INTERVENTION:** A total of 534 children aged 6 to 10 years at baseline with no prior amalgam restorations and 2 or more posterior teeth with caries were randomly assigned to receive dental restoration of baseline and incident caries during a 5-year follow-up period using either amalgam

**CONCLUSIONS:** *In this study, there were no statistically significant differences in adverse neuropsychological or renal effects observed over the 5-year period in children whose caries were restored using dental amalgam or composite materials. Although it is possible that very small IQ effects cannot be ruled out, these findings suggest that the health effects of amalgam restorations in children need not be the basis of treatment decisions when choosing restorative dental materials.*

*suggest that amalgam should remain a viable dental restorative option for children.*

# Survivability Amalgam vs Composite

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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J Am Dent Assoc, Vol 138, No 6, 775-783.

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## CLINICAL PRACTICE

### JADA Continuing Education

## Survival and reasons for failure of amalgam versus composite posterior restorations placed in a randomized clinical trial

Mario Bernardo, DMD, PhD, Henrique Luis, MS, Michael D. Martin, DMD, MSD, MPH, MA, PhD, Brian G. Leroux, MSc, PhD, Tessa Rue, MS, Jorge Leitão, MD and Timothy A. DeRouen, PhD



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1: [J Am Dent Assoc.](#) 2007 Jun;138(6):775-83.

**Survival and reasons for failure of amalgam versus composite posterior restorations placed in a randomized clinical trial.**

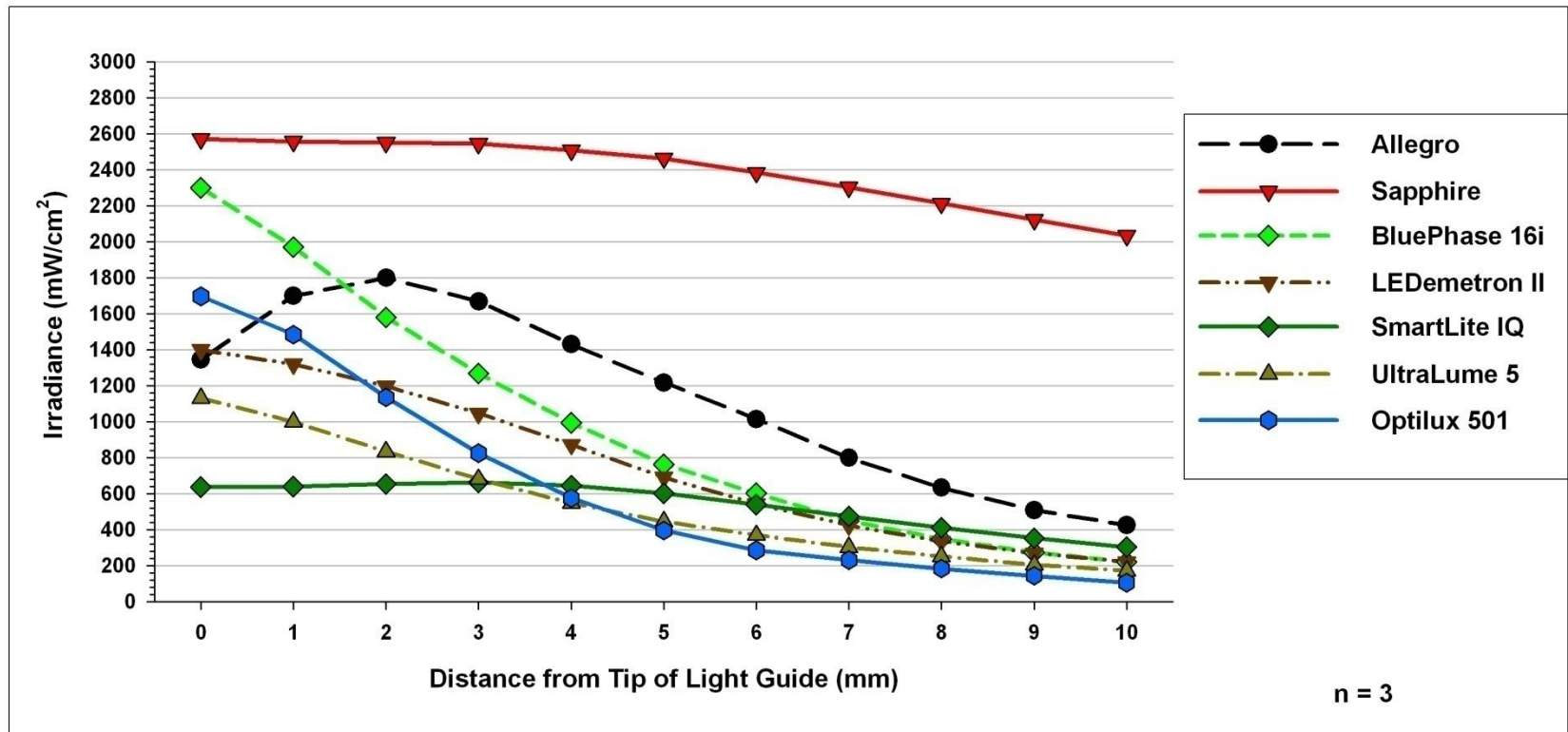
**[Bernardo M](#), [Luis H](#), [Martin MD](#), [Leroux BG](#), [Rue T](#), [Leitão J](#), [DeRouen TA](#).**

Community and Preventive Dentistry, Faculdade de Medicina Dentária, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal.

BACKGROUND: Failure of dental restorations is a major concern in dental practice. Replacement of failed restorations constitutes the majority of operative work. Clinicians should be aware of the longevity of, and likely reasons for the failure of, direct posterior restorations. In a long-term, randomized clinical trial, the authors compared the longevity

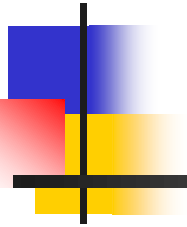
up to seven years. Overall, 10.1 percent of the baseline restorations failed. The survival rate of the amalgam restorations was 94.4 percent; that of composite restorations was 85.5 percent. Annual failure rates ranged from 0.16 to 2.83 percent for amalgam restorations and from 0.94 to 9.43 percent for composite restorations. Secondary caries was the main reason for failure in both materials. Risk of secondary caries was 3.5 times greater in the composite group. CONCLUSION: Amalgam restorations performed better than did composite restorations. The difference in performance was accentuated in large restorations and in those with more than three surfaces involved. CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS: Use of amalgam appears to be preferable to use of composites in multisurface restorations of large posterior teeth if longevity is the primary criterion in material selection.

# Effect of Distance from the Light Guide on the Irradiance Received




Felix CA, Price RB. Effect of Distance on Power Density from Curing Lights. Journal of dental research 2006;85:abstract 2486 ([www.dentalresearch.org](http://www.dentalresearch.org)).

When curing adhesives in deep proximal boxes with quartz halogen light (600 mw/cm<sup>2</sup>) curing time should be increased to 40-60 seconds to ensure optimal polymerization



Xu X, Sandras D, Burgess JO. Shear bond strength with increasing light-guide distance from dentin. J Esthet Restor Dent 2006

To maximize the energy delivered, the operator should wear eye protection, should watch what he or she is doing and should hold the light both close to and perpendicular to the restoration.

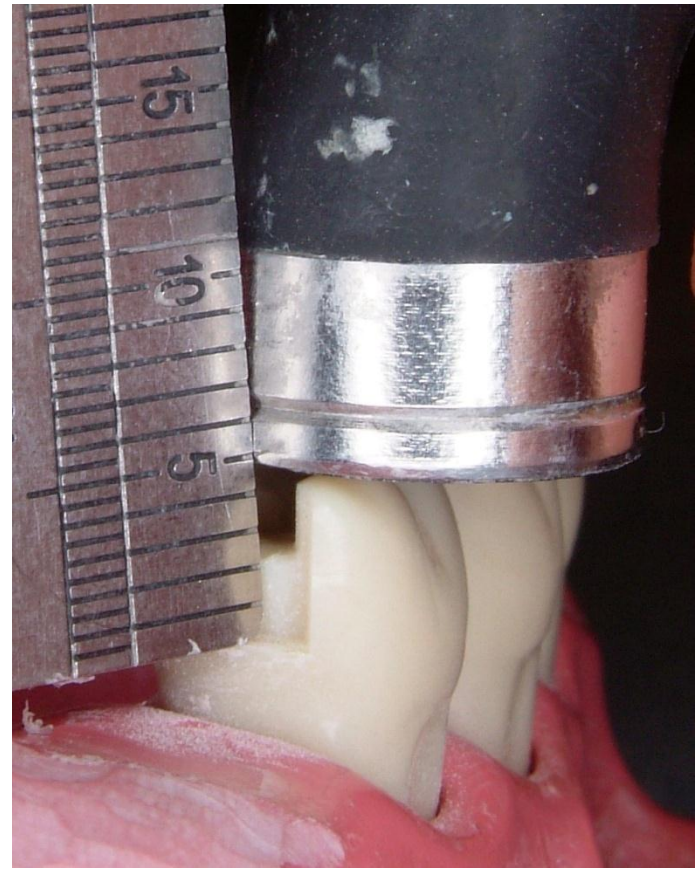
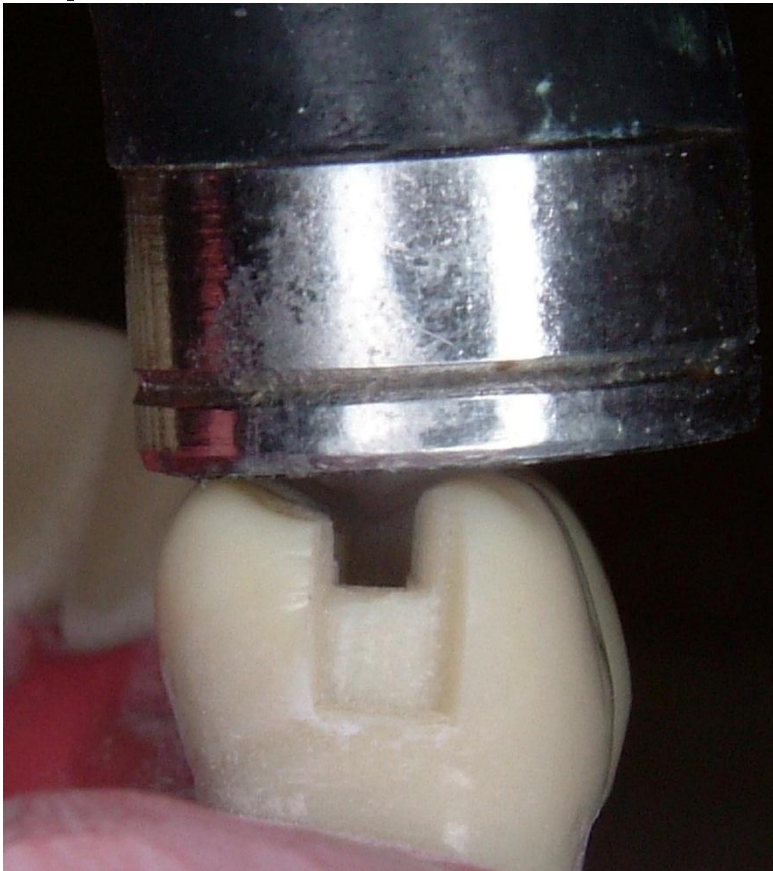


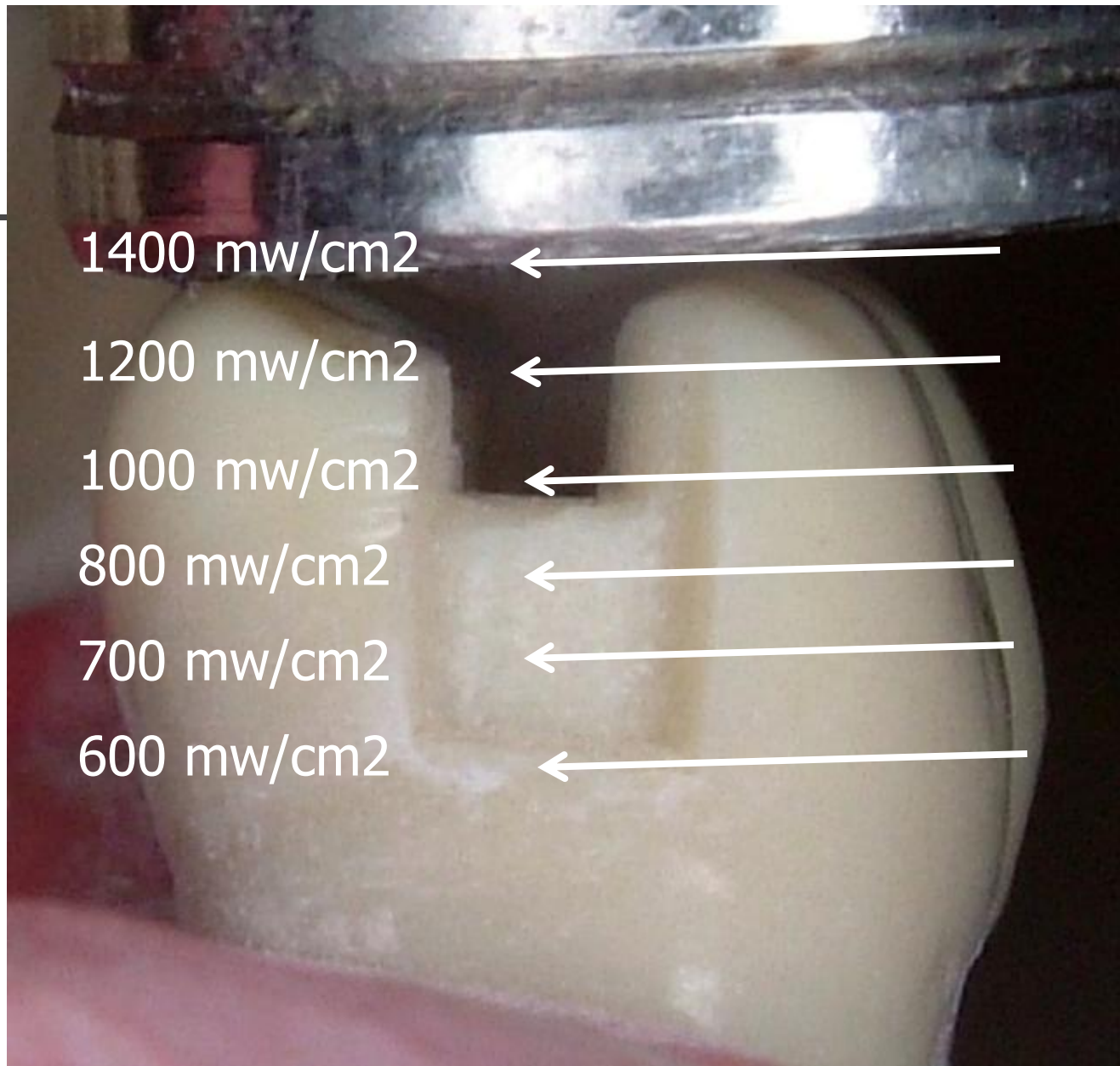
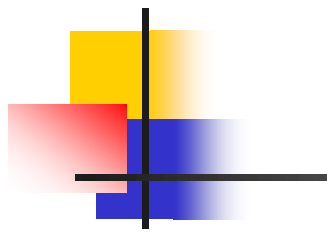
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Price RB, McLeod ME, Felix C Quantifying  
light energy delivered to a Class I  
restoration J Can Dent Assoc 2010

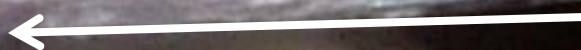


# Where is the light relative to what it is curing?

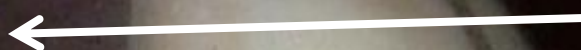




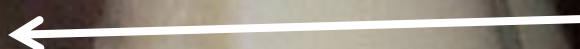
1400 mw/cm<sup>2</sup>



1200 mw/cm<sup>2</sup>



1000 mw/cm<sup>2</sup>



800 mw/cm<sup>2</sup>



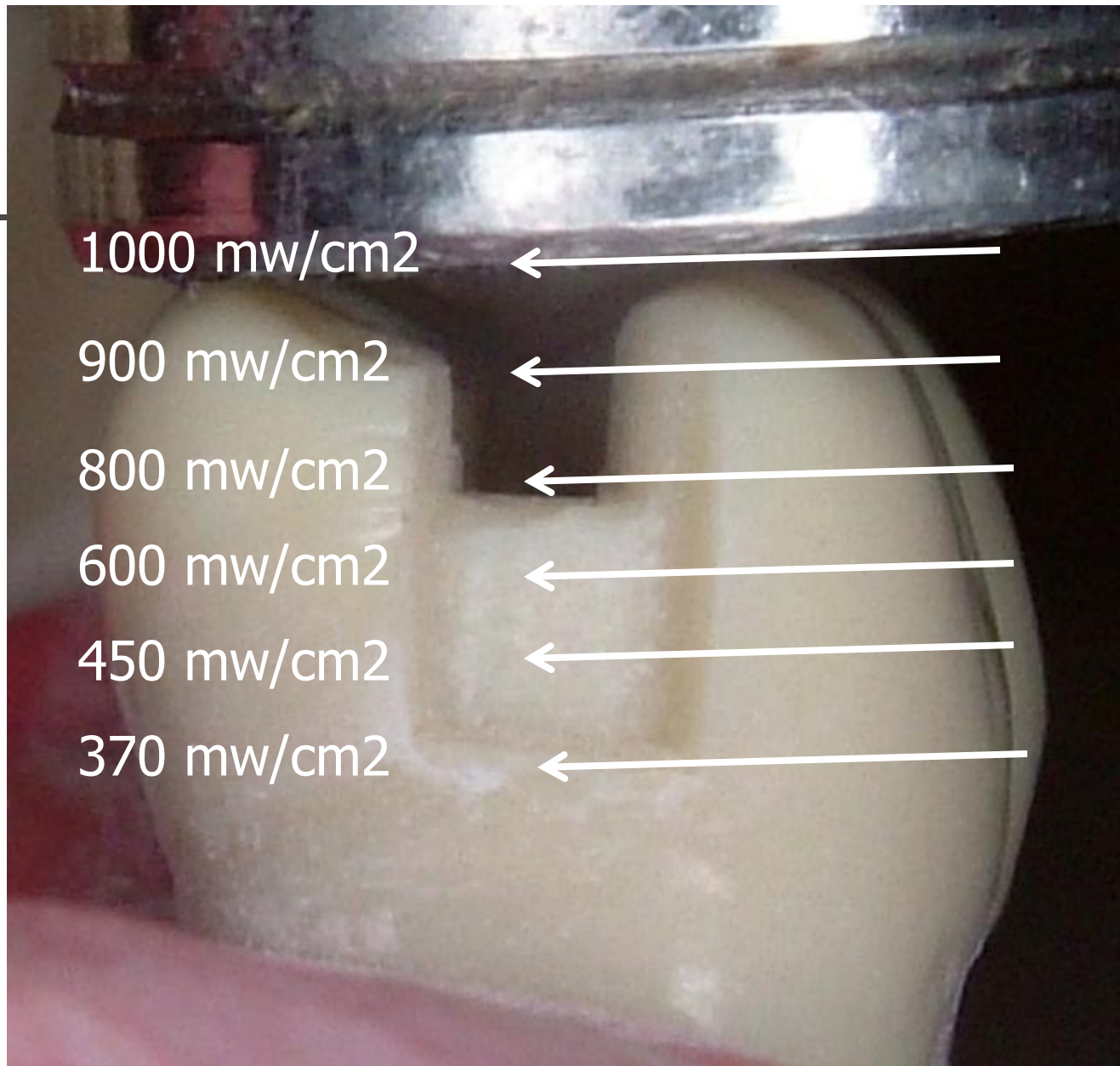
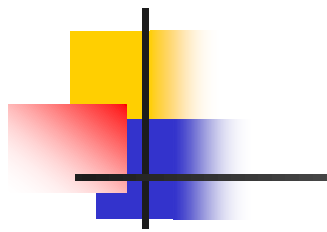
700 mw/cm<sup>2</sup>



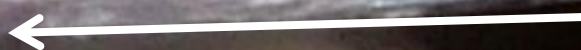
600 mw/cm<sup>2</sup>



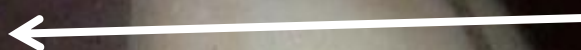




1000 mw/cm<sup>2</sup>



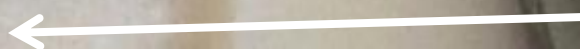
900 mw/cm<sup>2</sup>



800 mw/cm<sup>2</sup>



600 mw/cm<sup>2</sup>



450 mw/cm<sup>2</sup>



370 mw/cm<sup>2</sup>

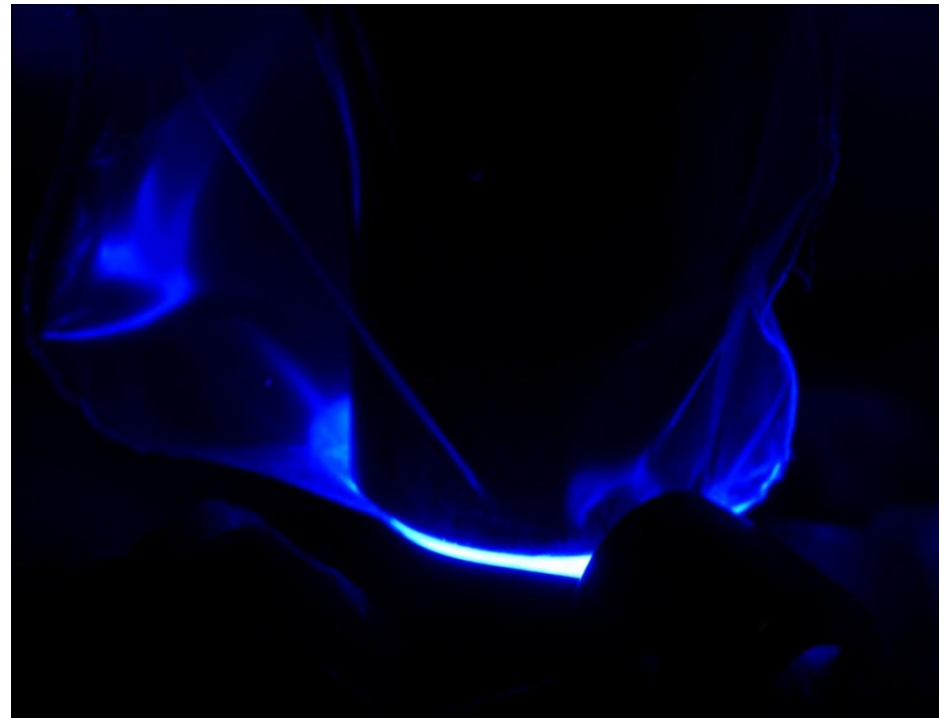


# Orientation of the Light

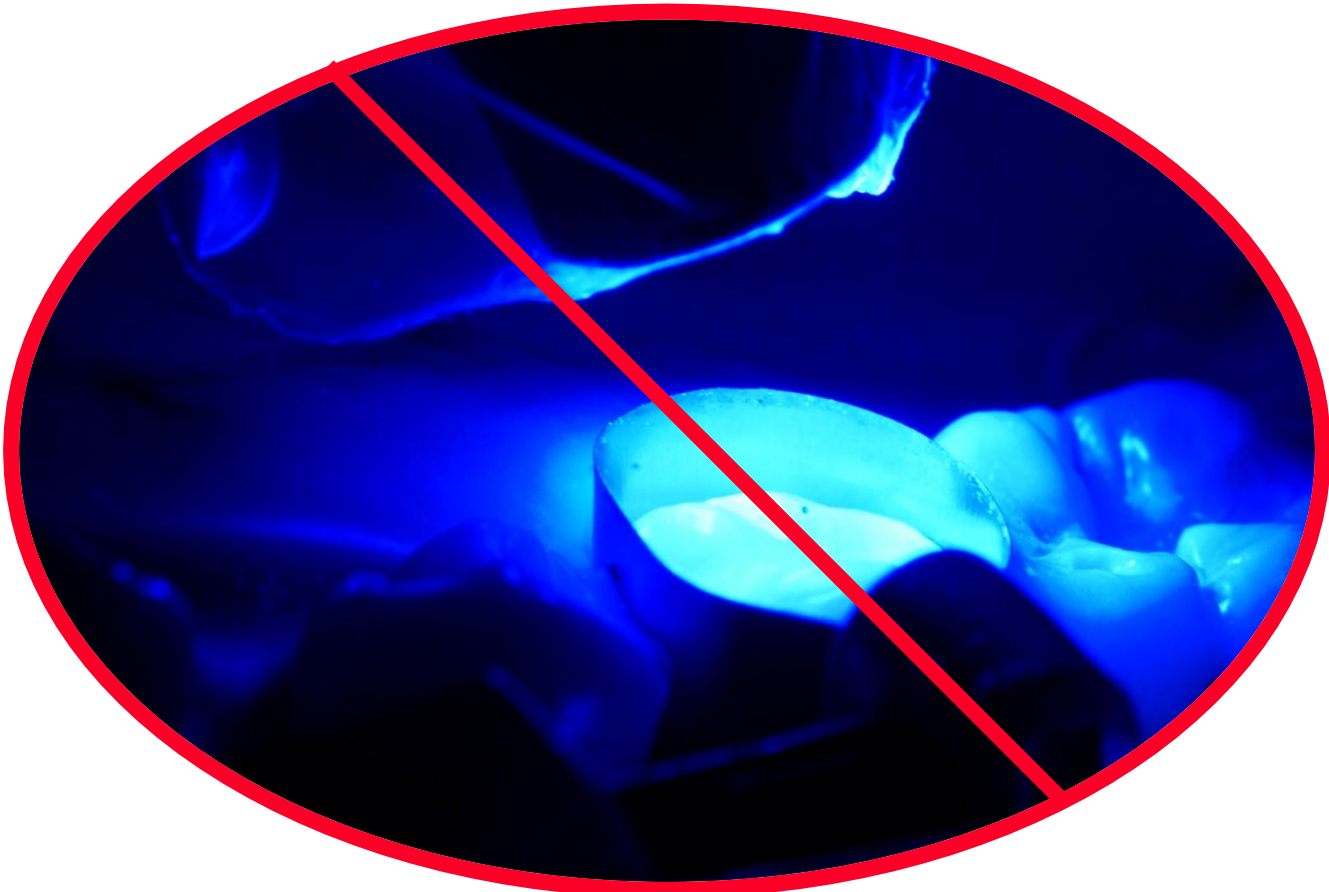


- \*\*Right angle
- \*\*Close to the tooth as is possible

Matrix band moves  
The light further away!

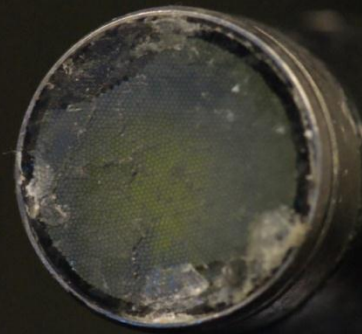
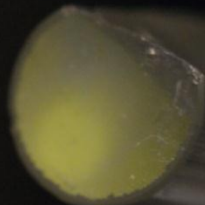
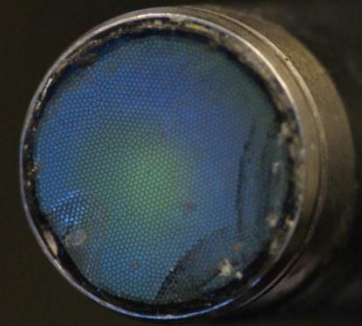
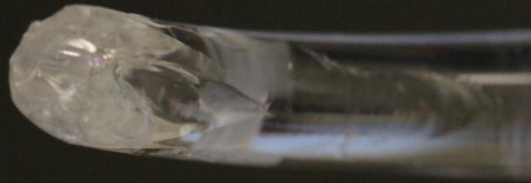


# Mis-Orientation of the Light



Note the height of the matrix

# Lights not working optimally





# MARC

Scientifically accurate- clinically relevant device.

Measures:

Irradiance

Spectral emission

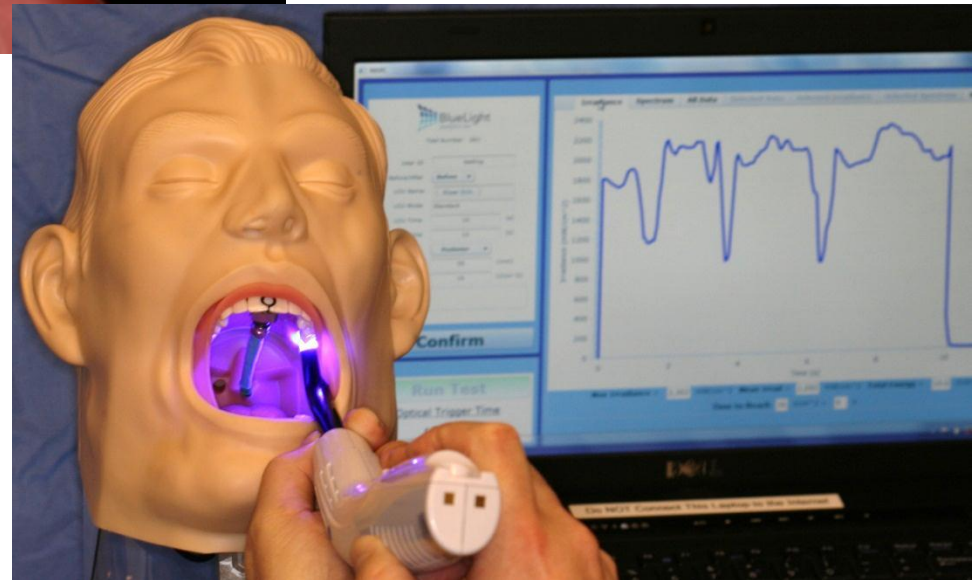
Energy values



# MARC for light curing training



Operator technique



# Good light curing habits

## CORE



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**C**uring Light

**O**perator Technique

**R**estoration (location, depth, size, opening)

**E**nergy Requirement

# Know your Curing light





# 37 Operators

## Same Light, Same Tooth, Same Time



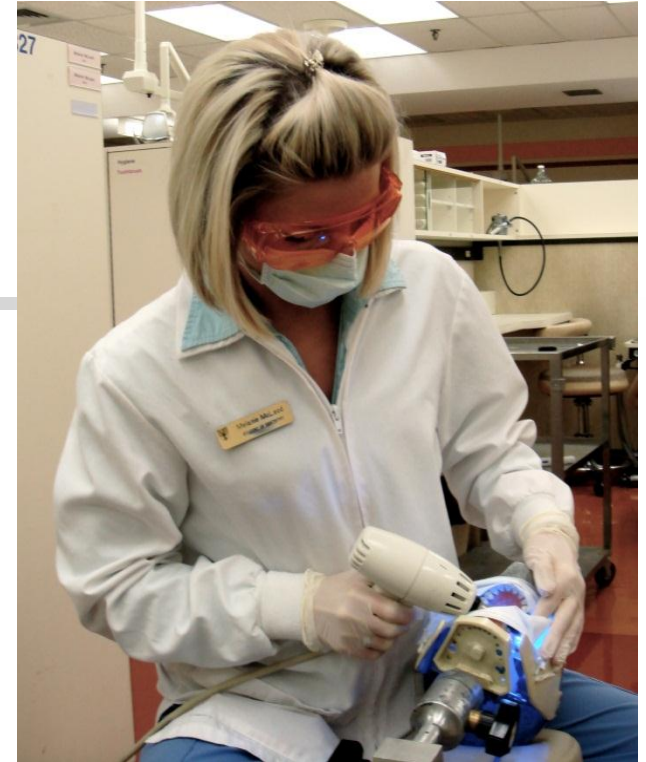
# *Teaching and Evaluating Light Curing*

**Before Instruction**



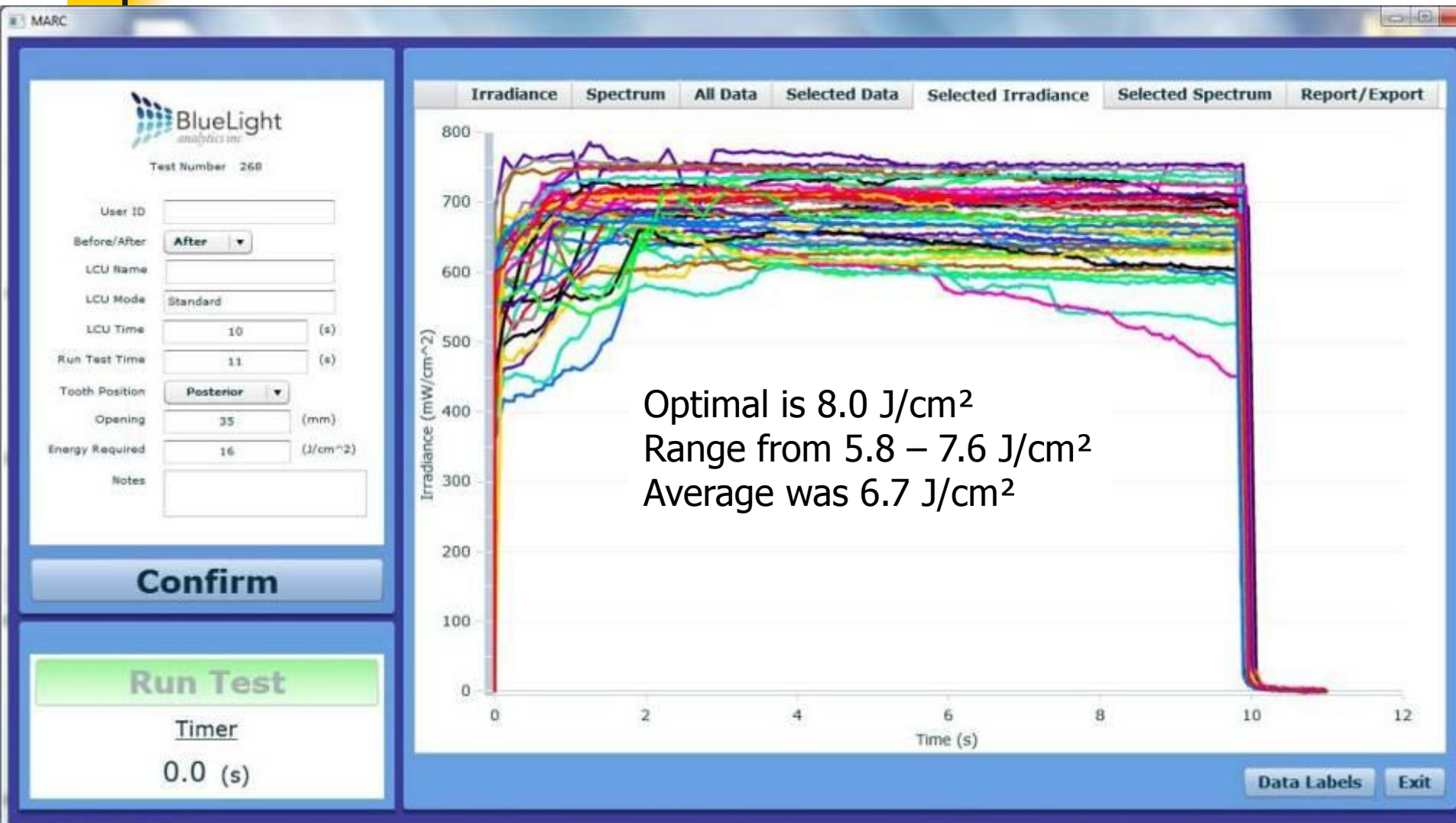
- **NOT looking, NOT stabilizing,**
- **NOT wearing eye protection!**

**After Instruction**



**Wearing eye protection,  
looking, stabilizing!**

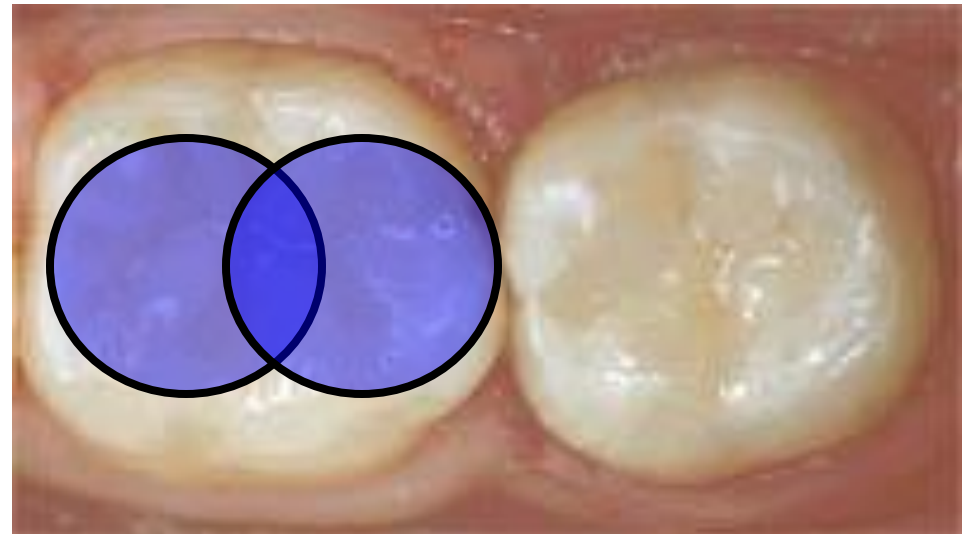
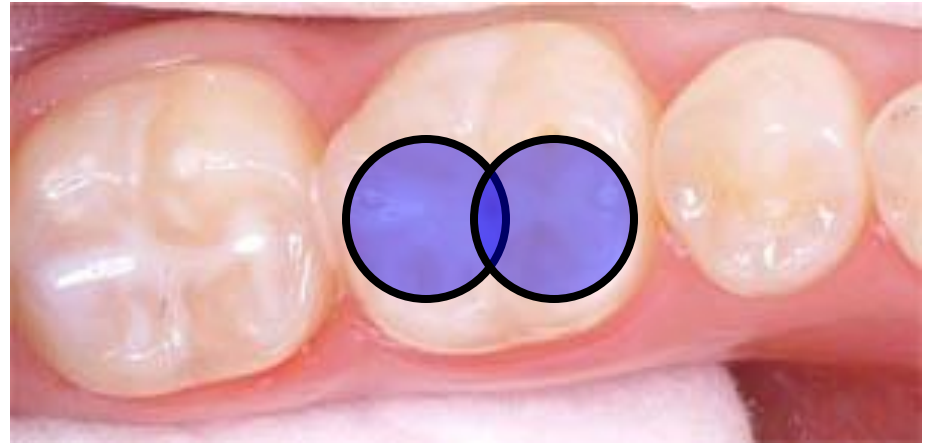
# After Group Instruction



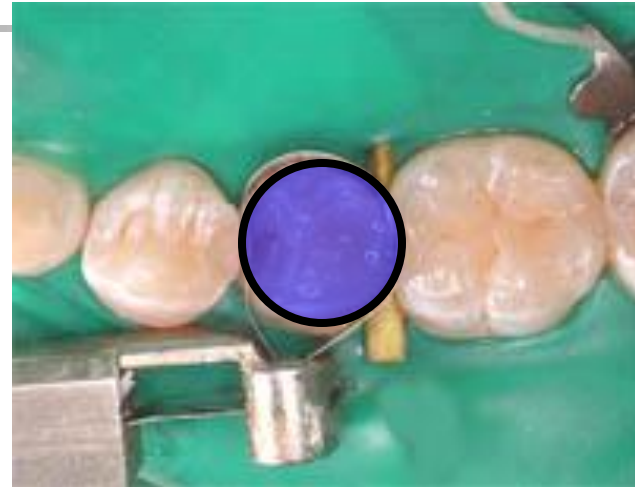


# Operator controlled Light tip diameter of 7.5 mm

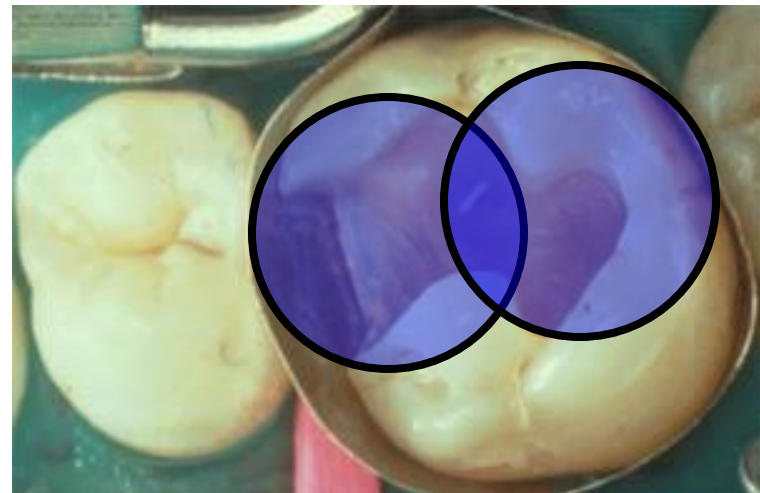
- Sealant on molar- 2 cycles (overlapping tip)
- Occlusal Class I- 2 cycles (overlapping tip)



- Class I or II premolar- 1 cycle no overlap needed unless the premolar is larger than normal



- Class II molar- 2 cycles (overlapping tip)

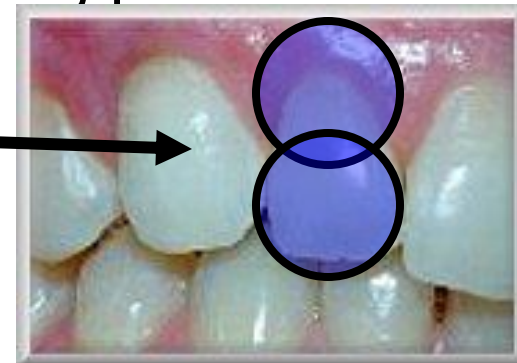


# Facial of a maxillary central incisor two or four cycles with overlap

- Facial veneer
  - Direct composite
  - Porcelain veneer
- Class IV
- Light cure facial and lingual
- A maxillary lateral incisor two cycles



Curing porcelain veneers



# Negative effects-**R**estoration Light angulation-Light movement

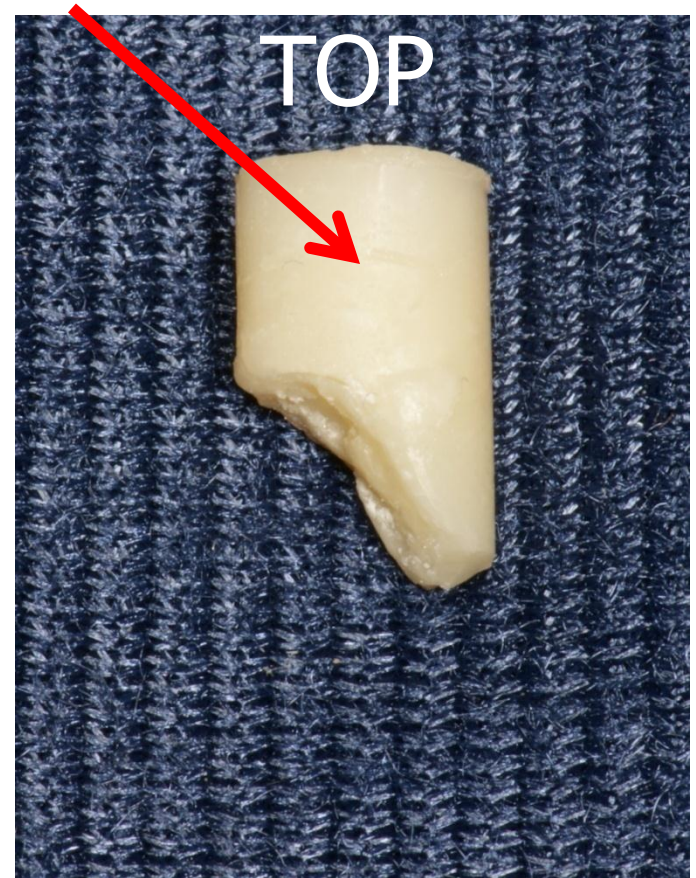
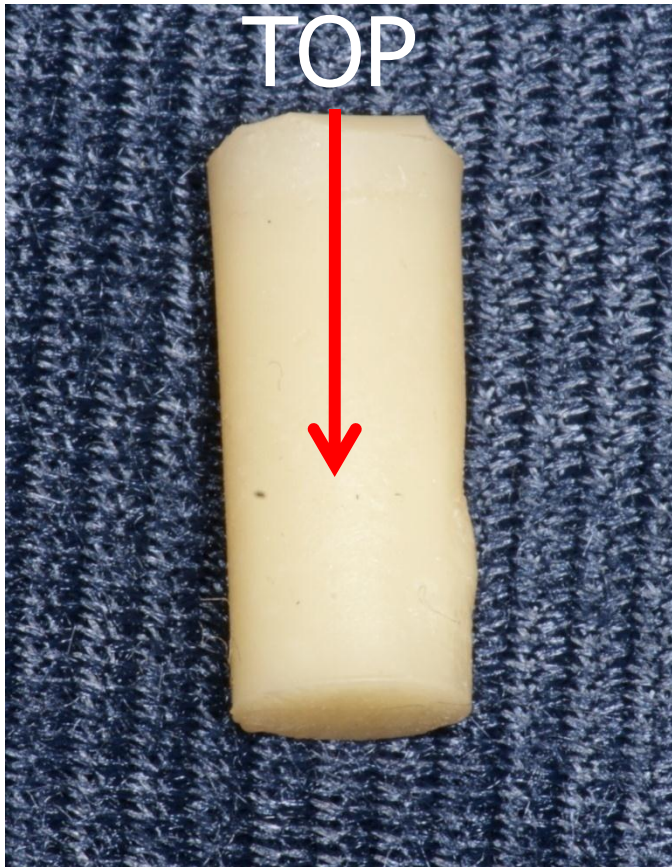


A  $30^\circ$  angle can reduce energy delivery by **26%**



# Change the angulation

## Change the cure





# Energy requirement

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- Power: mWatts
- Irradiance: (Power/Unit Area)  $\text{mW}/\text{cm}^2$
- Spectral Radiant Power:  $\text{mWatts}/\text{nm}$
- Energy Density = Irradiance x Time: **8 - 16  $\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$**

**3M ESPE**

**Filtek™ Supreme Ultra  
Universal Restorative**

7. **Curing:** This product is intended to be cured by exposure to a halogen or LED light with a minimum intensity of  $400\text{mW}/\text{cm}^2$  in the 400-500nm range. Cure each increment by exposing its entire surface to a high intensity visible light source, such as a 3M ESPE curing light. Hold the light guide tip as close to the restorative as possible during light exposure.

Shades	Incremental depth	Cure time
Body, Enamel, Translucent	2.0mm	20 sec.
Dentin, A6B and B5B	1.5mm	40 sec.



# 7 Steps to Ensure Better Light Curing

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1. Wear orange glasses (blue light blocking) for safety and so you can watch what you are doing
2. Re-position the patient so you can easily see the restoration and access it with the curing light
3. Position yourself comfortably so you can stabilize the curing light directly over the preparation



# 7 Steps to Ensure Better Light Curing

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4. Adjust the light guide so you can operate the light comfortably. Clean the tip as needed.
5. Stabilize the curing light so the beam is perpendicular to the surface of the resin
6. Begin curing 1mm away from resin and then move as close as possible after 1 second
7. Air-cool or wait between each curing cycle; test the temperature rise from the light on the back of your hand.



Understanding leads to  
improved clinical success

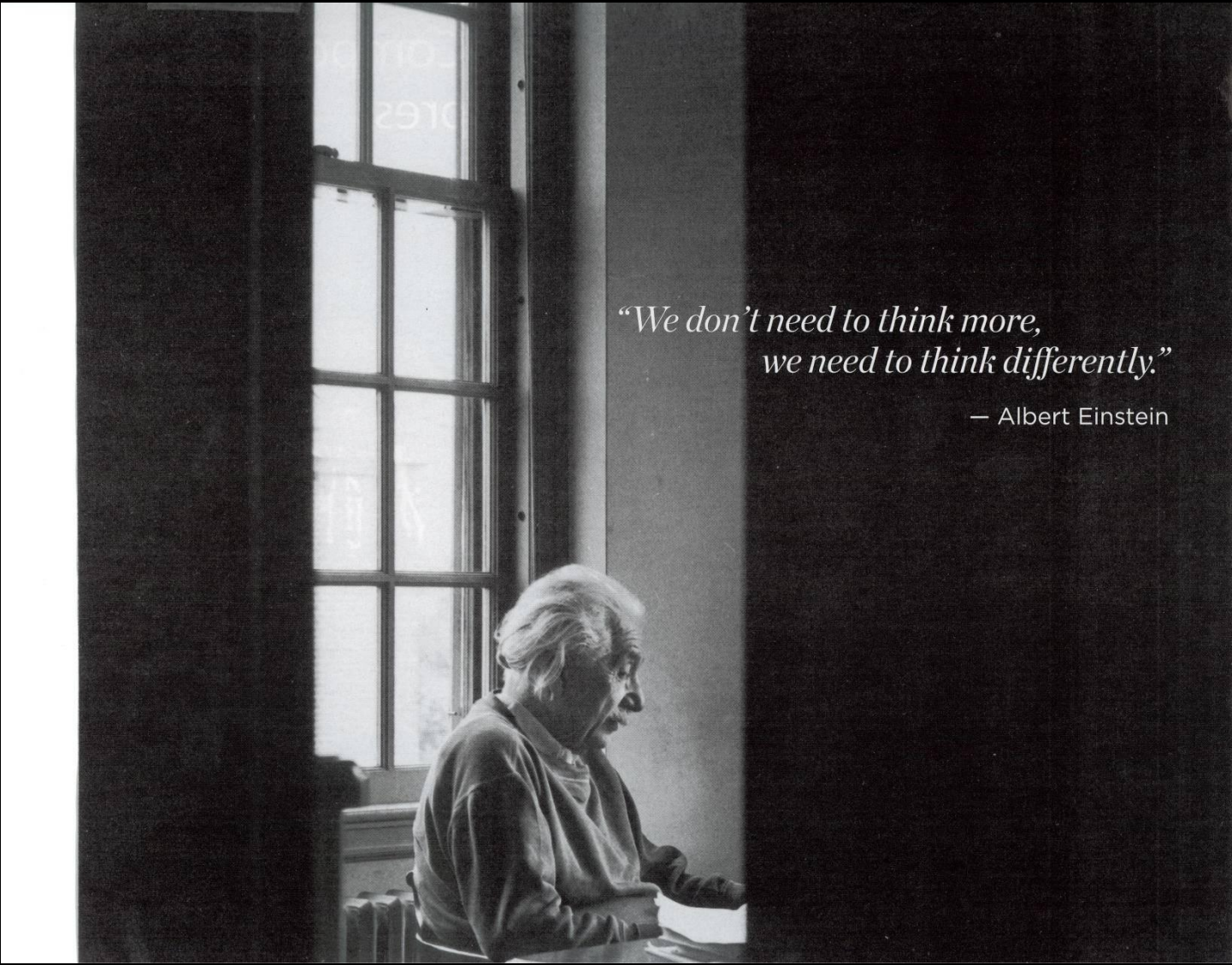
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**Light energy matters!**

The image features a solid blue background with ten white lightbulb icons scattered around the central text. Each lightbulb has a black outline and a small filament inside. The lightbulbs are arranged in a roughly circular pattern, with three in the top row, three in the middle row, and four in the bottom row.

# BLUMINESENCE





*“We don’t need to think more,  
we need to think differently.”*

— Albert Einstein