Preventative Resin Restorations (PRR’s)

Dental sealants are placed on children’s permanent teeth with the aim to prevent cavities. However, the traditional process of placing a sealant involves painting the material directly over the tooth, even if the tooth has some areas of staining:

Sometimes this trapped stain can lead to a cavity that goes undetected because it is “hidden” by the dental sealant. Also, because the sealant is painted over the exterior of the tooth, it doesn’t become firmly lodged in place. Therefore, sealants tend to chip and break away over time.

Because the thickness of the toothbrush bristles are wider than the tooth grooves, we do believe that preventing tooth decay is important.

However, we like to remove this layer of stain from the tooth first, and provide a clean surface for the restoration to adhere to. This type of restoration is called Preventative Resin Restorations (PRR’s). In the procedure, a “flowable” resin material with a bonding agent is used, which is stronger than the sealant material and thus tends to last longer. Also, while most sealants contain BPA, the flowable resin does not.

Our office’s fees for these PRR’s are in between the cost of a sealant and the cost of a standard filling. Most dental insurance plans provide some coverage for this procedure; however, patients are encouraged to contact their insurance company to see what benefits they provide.