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Rubber dam placement

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Aim

To provide the knowledge and skills to apply rubber dam correctly and efficiently

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Learning outcomes

By the end of this session the successful delegate should be able to:

- Demonstrate a knowledge of the various restorative procedures that require the use of rubber dam
- Discuss the instruments and materials necessary for rubber dam application including relevant cross-infection issues
- Demonstrate competency in the safe application of rubber dam

GDC Development Outcomes: A, C

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What are the advantages of using rubber dam?

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- Better visualization
- Creates good moisture control, vital for composites
- Patient protection - airway, irrigant and soft tissue protection
- Isolation of tooth from oral bacteria - esp. important with RCT
- Gives pt. feeling of ‘safety’ and ‘separation’ from the dentist
- Protects dentist and nurse from pt. diseases

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Reasons for using rubber dam

- Root Canal Therapy (RCT) – protects patient and improves working area for operator
- It is useful when placing composite fillings or cementing adhesive bridges
- May be useful when removing large amalgams

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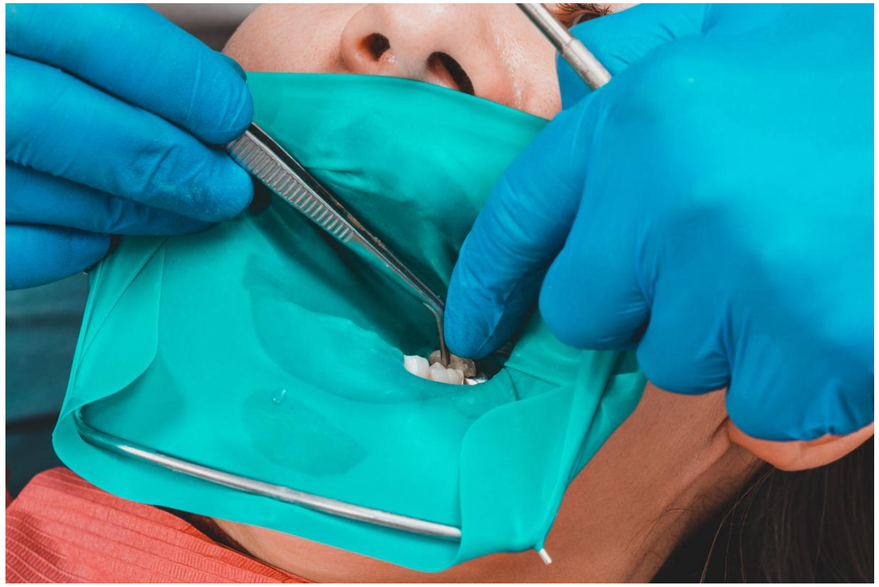
Types of dam



Sheet plus frame

Framed

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How is it held in place?

Wedjets

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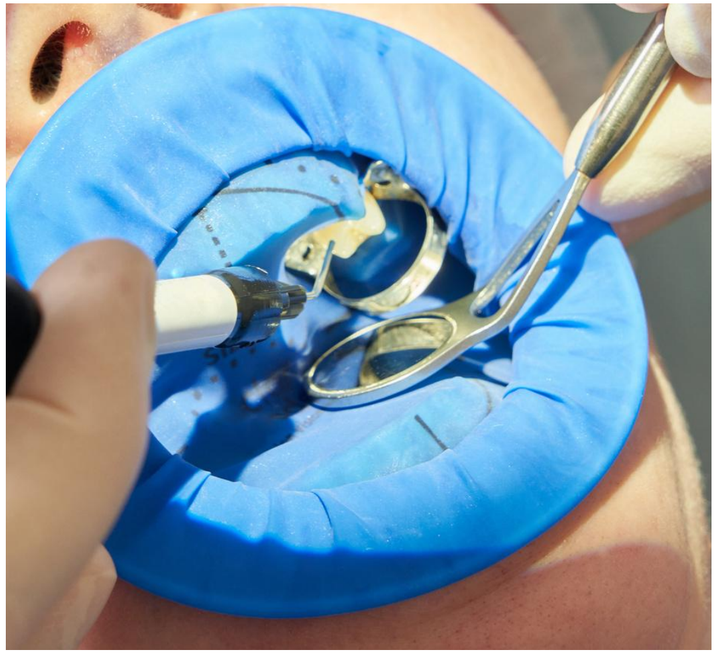
How is it held in place?

Clamps



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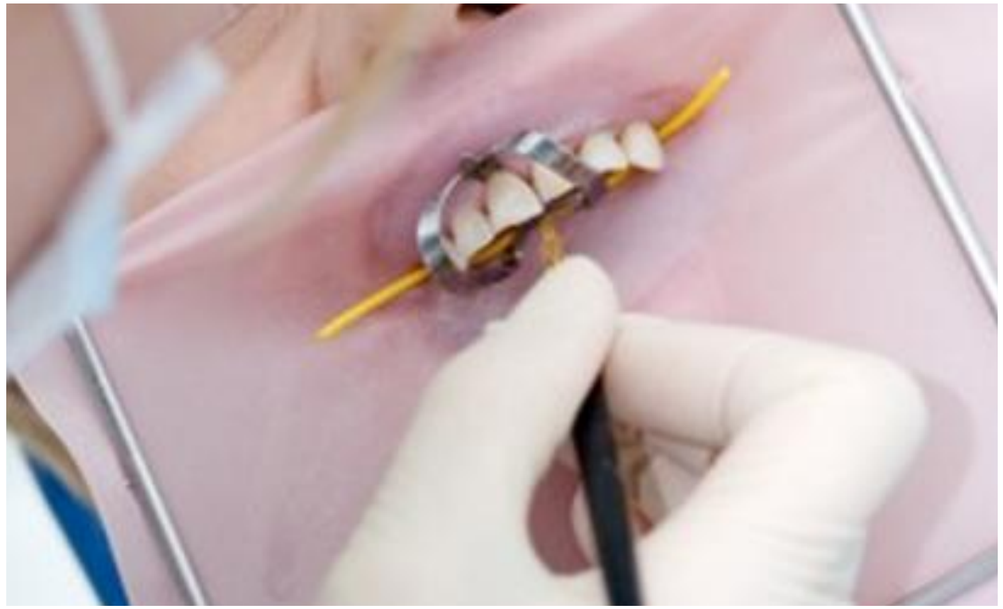
How is it held in place?

Both



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Clamps

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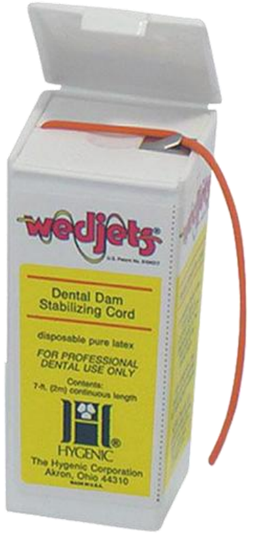

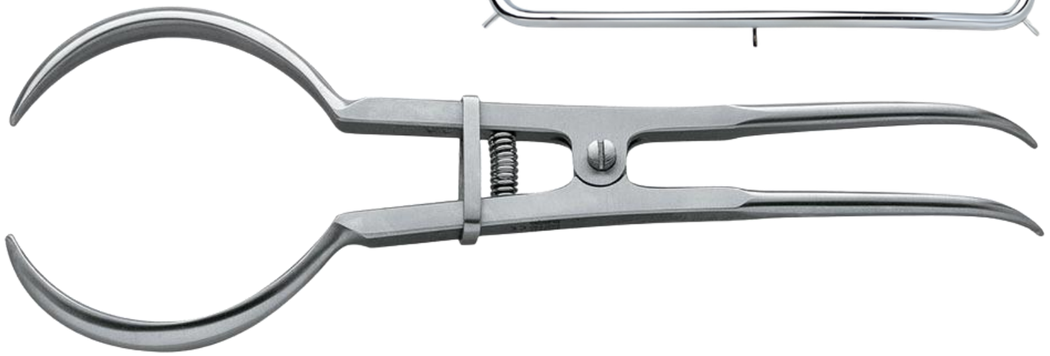

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Checklist

Technique 1 - All in one

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Choose the correct clamp with wings

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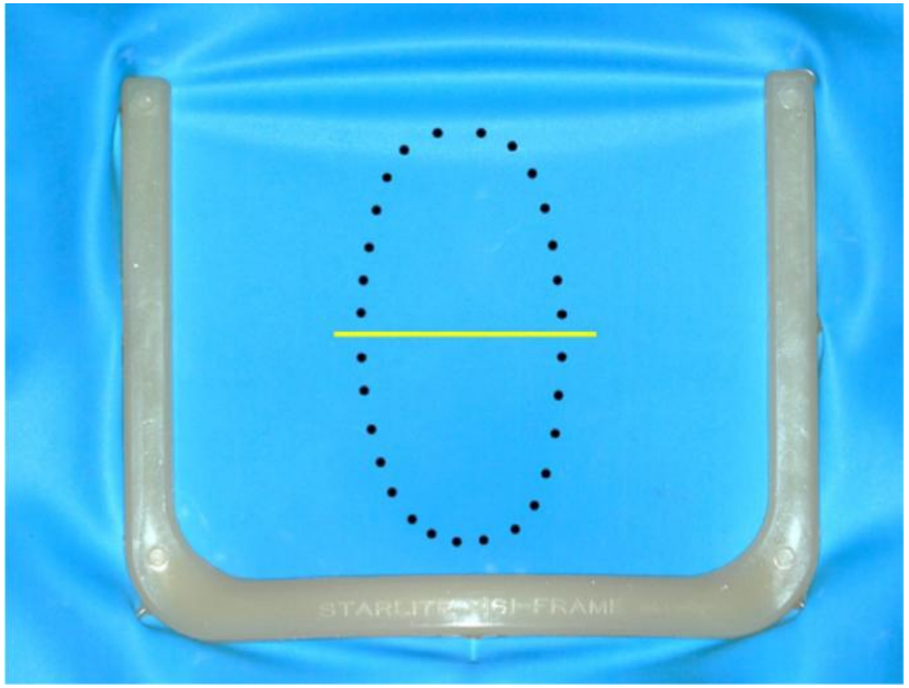
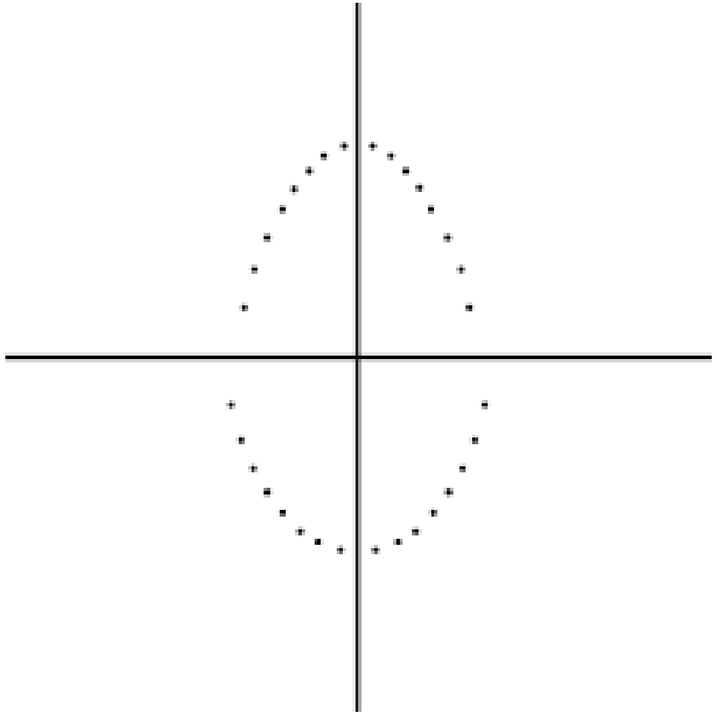
Make a mark, for the intended tooth, on the rubber dam sheet where you will punch a hole





Important

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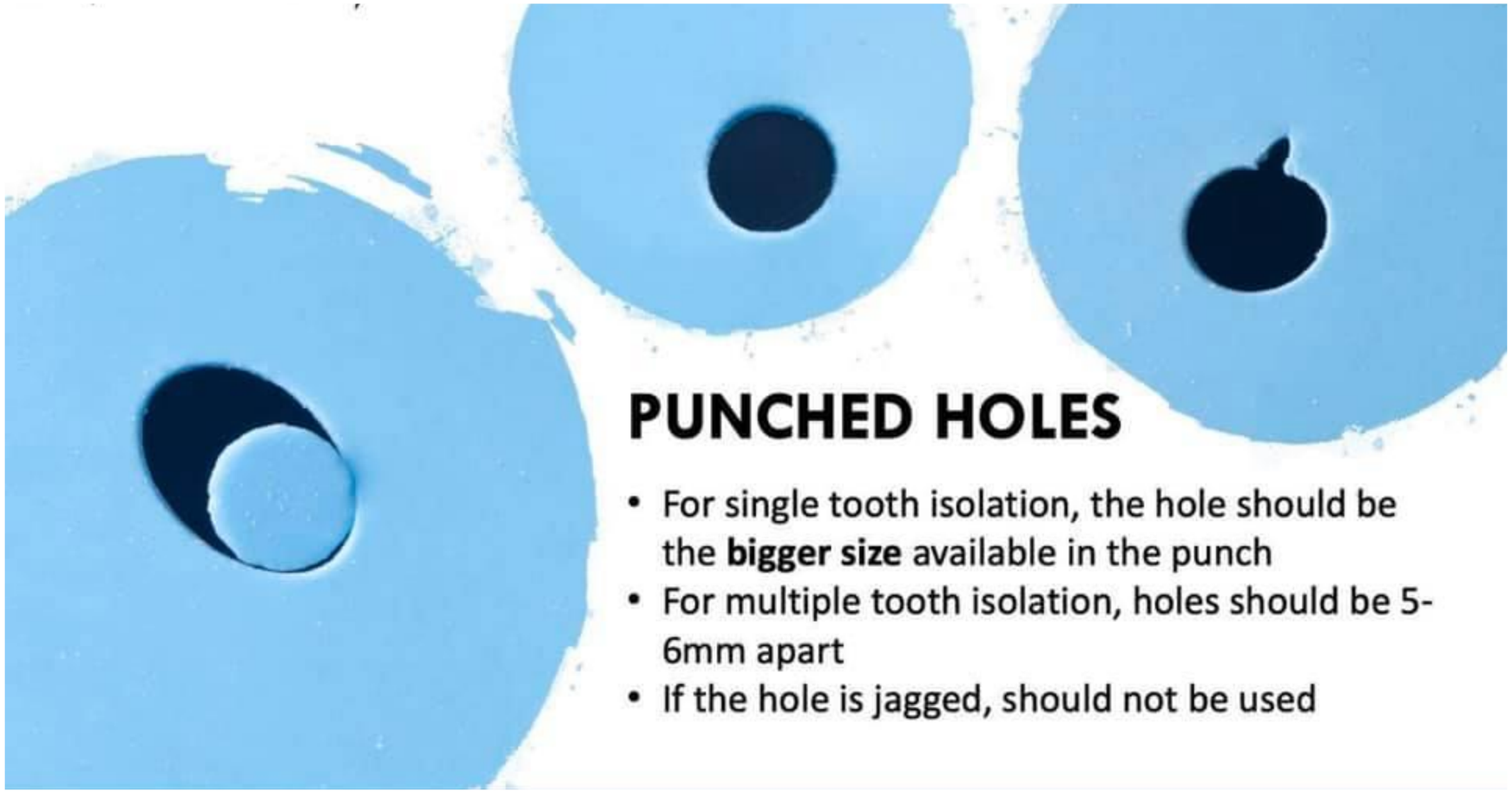

Use the hole punch to make the corresponding sized hole

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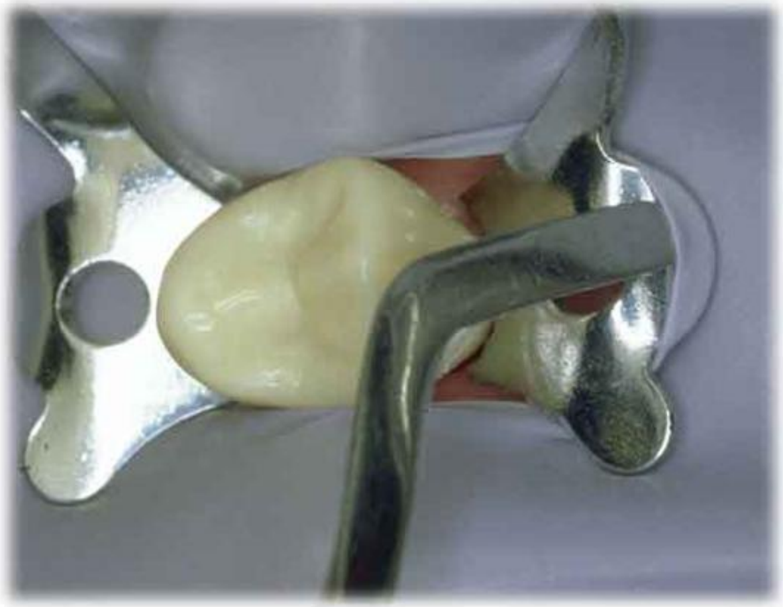
- Tie some floss securely around your clamp
- Place the clamp into the hole with the hoop/bow positioned at the distal of the tooth
- Orientate the frame and position onto dam



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Technique 2 - Dam first, then clamp

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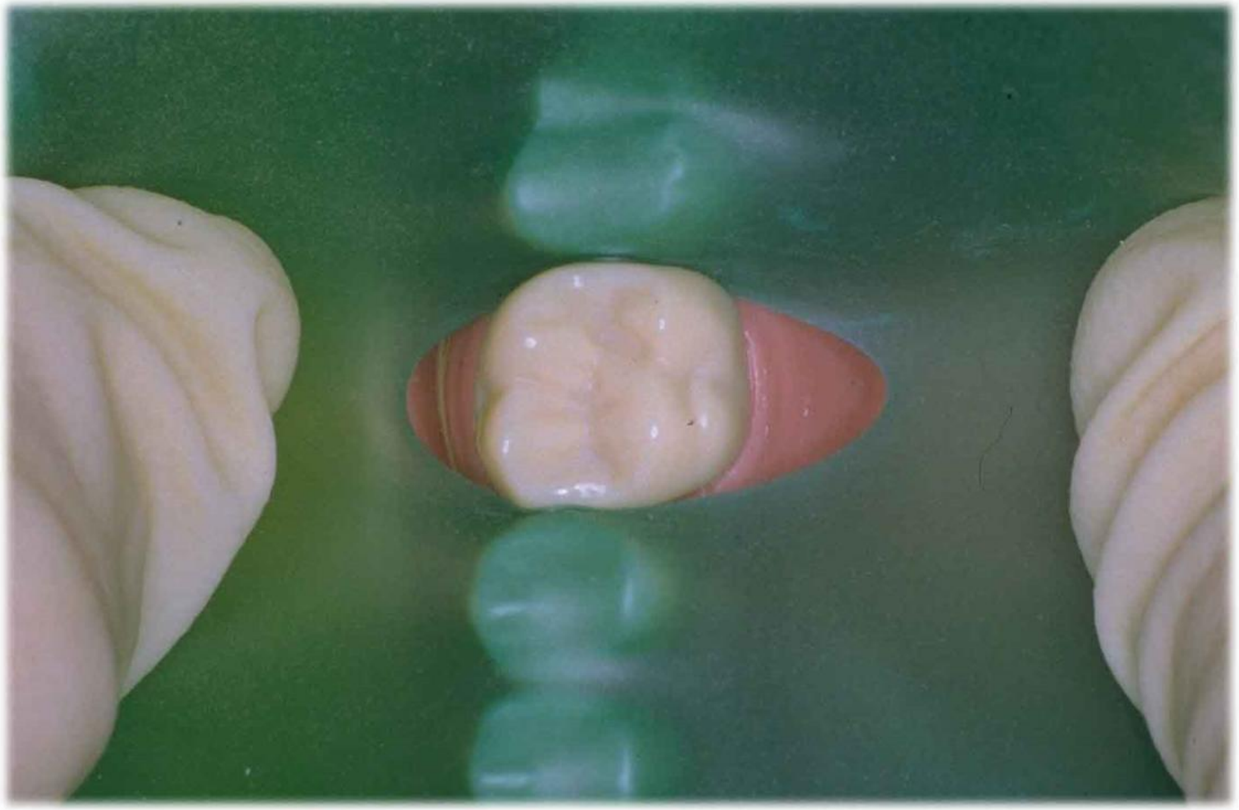

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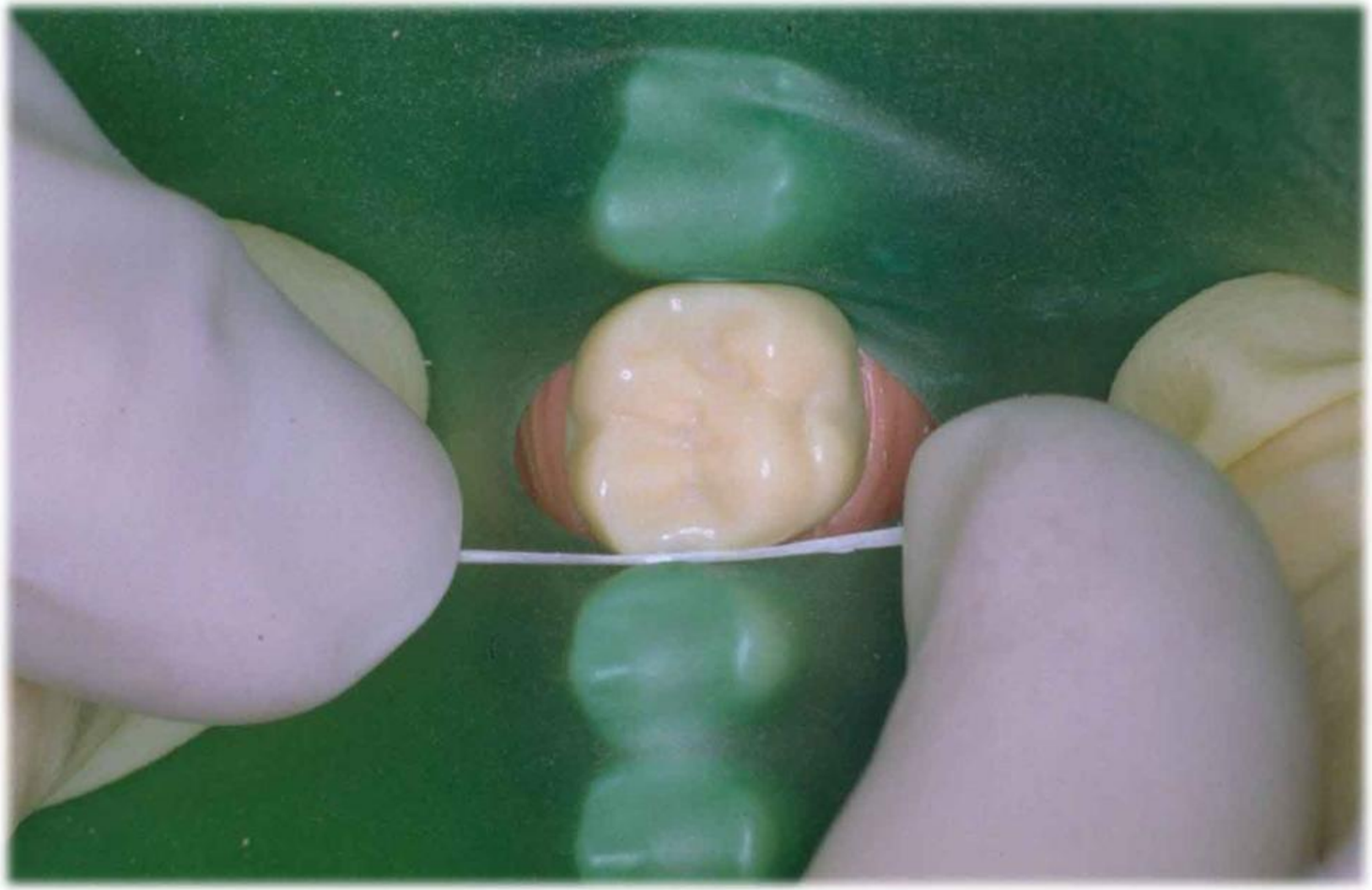

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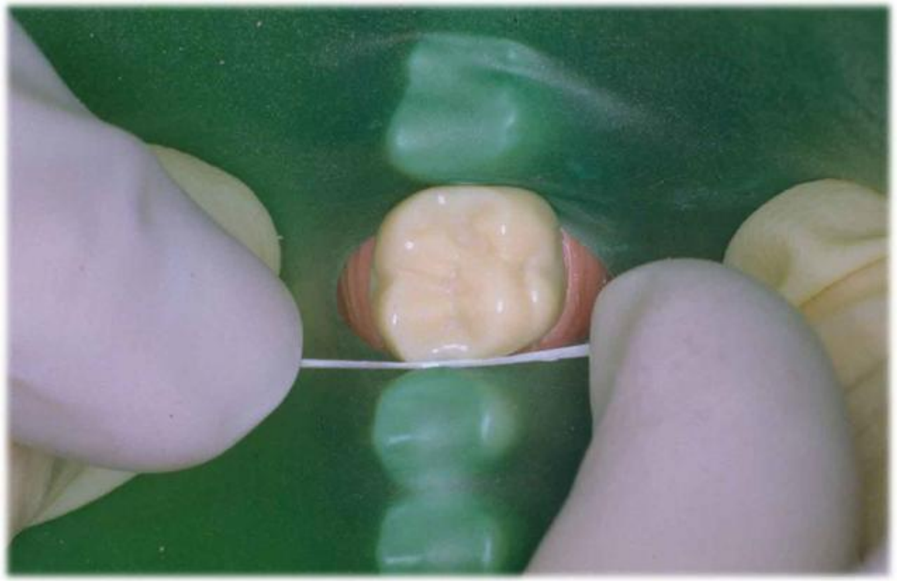

Technique 3 - Clamp first, then dam

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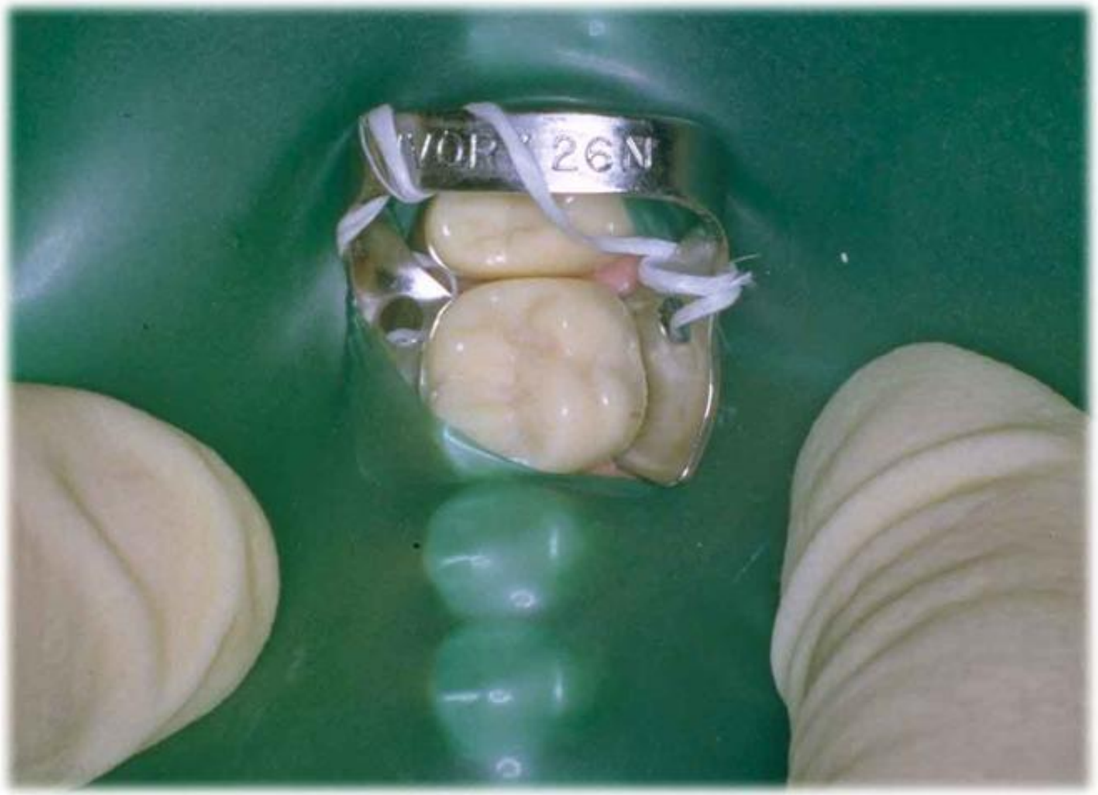

Split dam technique

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Questions?

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Practical:

Working in pairs, apply rubber dam to a lower molar