

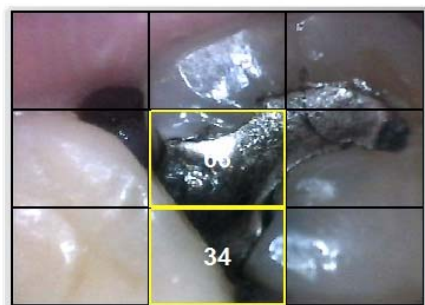
FEBRUARY 25, 2012

CANARY CASE REPORT: DETECTING CARIES AROUND AN AMALGAM RESTORATION

As part of a routine recall examination, a hygienist decided to scan two areas around the margins of the amalgam on the maxillary left second molar. A routine bitewing radiograph of the left side did not reveal any pathology and there were no symptoms associated with this tooth.

THE FINDING:

The concern was the integrity of the margins of the amalgam restoration. The Canary Number of 66 on the buccal aspect of the tooth as well as the Canary Number of 34 on the lingual aspect indicated caries and micro-leakage around this amalgam restoration. This patient had resisted replacing a number of old restorations. The Canary Scan allowed the hygienist and dentist to locate the caries on this tooth (not seen on radiographs).



66

LEFT: Canary Scan results. Canary Number 66 on buccal aspect and Canary Number 34 on lingual aspect of proximal box.

RIGHT: Photograph with amalgam removed (mirror view so image is reversed).



THE TREATMENT:

Removal of the restoration revealed a large carious lesion under the buccal and lingual aspects of the mesial proximal box. Had the caries not been detected, it would have led to either a pulp exposure or continued to undermine the buccal cusp leading to a fracture.

THE RESULT:

An additional six minutes of hygienist's time during a recall / hygiene visit resulted in at least \$210.00 in restorative work and a patient who appreciated the opportunity to have the lesion restored before caries

