In the past years there has been an influx of bioactive dental materials in the market aiming to improve biocompatibility and the response of the dentin-pulp complex when pulp protection therapies are indicated. These materials have different features in composition, indications, and handling technique. Not all these materials have science to support effectiveness clinically. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the materials clinicians have available for pulp protection, their mechanism of action, and overall success rates of pulp capping therapies in adults.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES
• Learn about what is in the word “bioactive” in dental materials
• Review and differentiate types of pulp protection materials
• Learn about success rates of direct and indirect pulp capping for adult patients and useful clinical tips for placement

CLINICIAN
ANA BEDRAN-RUSSO, DDS, MS, PHD, is chair and professor at the Marquette University School of Dentistry Department of General Dental Sciences. Dr. Bedran-Russo has published over 125 peer-reviewed papers, 4 book chapters and over 170 abstracts. She received a DDS degree from the University of Sao Paulo, and a Master and PhD degrees from the University of Campinas. She completed a 2-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. As a clinician-scientist she utilizes her experience as a dentist and biomaterials researcher to understand functional aspects of teeth towards the goal of developing bioinspired dental biomaterials and therapies to increase the lifespan of the natural dentition, including development of bonding systems. Her research has been supported by the NIH since 2006 as well as industry and association contracts. Dr. Bedran-Russo is actively involved in the leadership of professional associations, including chairing the ADA Council of Scientific Affairs, Councilor of the Academy of Operative Dentistry, past-president DMG group of the International Association for Dental Research, and past board member Academy of Dental Materials.

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