Figure 1. Model of Dentists' Restorative Decision Making Process

Dentist Factors

Characteristics
- age
- skills
- experience
- uncertainty tolerance
- risk aversion

Biases
- restoration utility
- diagnostic techniques
- treatment preferences
- outlier experiences

Practice
- busyness
- scale/personnel
- lab arrangements
- equipment

Examination

automatic decision to treat

inconclusive

"Risk" Assessment

decision to treat

Treatment Selection

no treatment recommended

Treatment Negotiation and Delivery

Patient Factors

Trigger Conditions
- caries
- fractured tooth
- fractured restoration
- dysfunctional restoration
- esthetic problem

Risk Factors For
- caries
- restoration replacement
- tooth fracture
- erosion

Other Conditions
- chief complaint
- insurance status
- functional status
- periodontal status
- utilization history