A Free Gingival Graft Prior to Orthodontics with a 3 1/2 Year Follow-Up

Porcelain Veneer or Crown? A Hybrid “Clamshell” Crown Technique

A Protocol For Achieving Predictable Results in Anterior Restoration

A Cosmetic Smile-Lift Utilizing Advanced Porcelain Veneering

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INTRODUCTION

In today’s fast-paced society, people often desire immediate results. We, as clinicians, must present all viable alternatives to our patients. Then, based on their individual wants and needs, we must provide our cosmetic services incorporating all aspects of proper smile design.

...we could complete this case with a turn around time of only three days.

CASE STUDY

This patient presented with a severely overcrowded maxillary anterior dentition. The four incisors were all malposed. Tooth #9 appeared nonvital, however, was actually a vital tooth. This was significant in the final treatment plan of the case. The mandibular anterior dentition presented with the central incisors previously extracted. This was performed, according to the patient, to alleviate severe crowding in that area. This probably caused the lateral incisors and cuspids to collapse mesially. The molar relationships were deemed adequate. (Figures 1 & 2)

Cindy’s chief complaint was, “My top teeth are yellow and crooked.” She was not as concerned with her bottom teeth. She stated that she was getting married in approximately two months and she wanted her teeth whitened and as straight as possible. She did not desire, nor was there time for orthodontic treatment. She did not want any more teeth extracted, had heard about bonding and wanted to know if that procedure could help her problem. Previous dentists had told her that bonding was not a viable option. Cindy also worked six days a week in a nail salon which meant that she had limited time to spend in the dentist chair.

TREATMENT OPTIONS

After taking study models, analyzing them and considering Cindy’s limited time schedule, we decided to use an at-home bleaching system (Nite White) to whiten her teeth.

Figure 1
The previous extraction of the central incisors caused the lateral incisors and cuspids to collapse mesially.

Figure 2: Before
The patient was mostly concerned with the crooked and yellow top teeth.

Figure 3: After
The veneers were luted individually for maximum control of placement.
We then would place porcelain veneers on the maxillary central and lateral incisors. I advised Cindy that in preparing the teeth, tooth #9, due to its severe angular position, might need root canal treatment. She understood and accepted that possibility. (In my favor was the fact that on the radiograph, the pulp chamber of tooth #9 was actually receded.)

PREPARATION

The patient was very diligent in her use of the home bleaching system. Her teeth lightened to a very beautiful shade. To create the most esthetic result possible, I performed electrosurgery on the free gingival margin of #8 to make it even with the gingival margin of #7 and #9. Aggressive preparation was necessary on #9 to bring it into the proper occlusal plane and arch form (Figure 4). A wrap around type veneer (Rosenthal Veneer) preparation was used to allow for proper veneer fabrication and to maximize esthetics. Fortunately, the pulp was not invaded. Impressions were then taken with Polyvinyl Siloxane materials.

LABORATORY PROCEDURE

Due to Cindy's hectic schedule and upcoming wedding, my lab technician, Richard Resk, and myself decided we could complete this case with a turn around time of only three days. This necessitated Richard coming to my office for a custom shade and contour match. He gladly accepted the challenge that this case presented.

Since the turn around time was only three days, no temporaries were made. Cindy did not object to this as she was used to hiding her smile with her hand.

PLACEMENT AND FINAL RESULT

After verifying that each veneer fit properly, Cosmedent's Insure Clear Try-in Paste was used to confirm that the final color and shading was what we wanted. The veneers were luted individually to allow for maximum control of placement. The luting agent was Bisco's All Bond II along with the Insure Clear Cement. As the after photos show, a very esthetic result was achieved (Figures 3 & 5). The teeth have been whitened and realigned to a very esthetic and functional level. Cindy's speech patterns were normal. She told me how happy she was and that this was exactly what she was hoping for. She said she now smiles constantly, and no longer covers her mouth (Figures 6 & 7).
CONCLUSION

Porcelain veneers, in conjunction with bleaching techniques, offer the dentist a way to rapidly alter a patient's smile and ultimately to raise their self esteem. These procedures are very exciting and truly make being a cosmetic dentist both rewarding and extremely satisfying.

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