



Anterior Esthetic Restorations

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In order to incorporate esthetic restorations in the anterior segment, the dentist must be able to perform «invisible» restorations. There are several prerequisites to accomplish this goal:

- knowledge of the basic rules governing esthetics in the oral cavity. Only if the dentist is able to insert an artificial material that looks natural into the oral cavity, there is a chance that the restoration will not be perceived as such by the patients. Knowledge about form, structure, position and colour are determining the dental esthetics.
- Understanding and mastering the adhesive technique is as important as well, because only with adhesive techniques it is possible to camouflage the restorations margins. Therefore the dentist must know how to bond resin based materials to tooth hard tissues (enamel and dentin) as well as to the restorative materials (mainly ceramics)
- Finally good esthetic materials must be available, which show the same optical properties as the teeth themselves. Today excellent composites and ceramics are available which can accomplish these characteristics.

To place invisible restorations with direct composite a layering technique must be followed. Basically, dentin is replaced with a more opaque composite mimicking the optical characteristics of dentin. It is then covered with a translucent “enamel” composite in order to create the colour from the depth, as it is done in natural teeth. Furthermore one can play with intensive stains and the right surface micro and macrostructures to hide the restoration within the natural surroundings. There are different layering concepts, which allow the dentist to insert “invisible” direct anterior restorations. With the right concept in mind and the know how about the important details it is possible to create absolutely naturally looking restorations in a rather short time. Due to the improved composition of modern composite materials these restorations will fulfil their task for a very long time.