

COMMENTARY

INTERDISCIPLINARY TREATMENT PLANNING FOR SINGLE-TOOTH RESTORATIONS IN THE ESTHETIC ZONE

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Drs. Simeone, De Paoli, De Paoli, Leofreddi, and their technician Salvatore Sgrò are to be congratulated for documenting this excellent case report involving very complex multidisciplinary orthodontic, surgical, and restorative therapy. Although the final photographs are relatively short term (6 months), the esthetic results involving implants, soft tissue, metal-ceramic crowns, and feldspathic porcelain veneers in the maxillary anterior region are excellent. The soft tissue response is spectacular and the restorations that are provided perfectly mimic natural teeth.

Interested readers should note the extreme attention to detail that was described in this case report. The excellent esthetic and functional results obtained in this complex patient treatment were achieved not simply because the clinicians worked with a talented technician. They were achieved because every member of the dental team planned each step ahead of time and no shortcuts were taken in the name of expediency. This appropriate philosophical approach is in sharp contrast to the commercial “instant extreme makeover” concept that seems to be popular with a segment of the contemporary dental community.

Some of the keys to success in this patient treatment are precise orthodontic positioning of the teeth to permit precise implant placement, the use of a detailed diagnostic wax-up to determine the optimum crown contours for soft tissue management, and the use of custom acrylic resin provisional restorations developed from the diagnostic wax-up to guide the healing of the soft tissues. The procedures used to transfer the intraoral situation to the dental laboratory were also very detailed and impeccably completed. The laboratory phase of this treatment was also beautifully conceived and described, using sophisticated procedures such as electroplating the impression and fabricating the antirotational abutment positioning key. The photographs of the restorations in function in lateral excursions demonstrate the attention paid to developing a functional occlusion.

This case presentation clearly demonstrates that achieving functional and esthetic success with complex interdisciplinary treatment requires careful presurgical planning, careful and precise surgical technique, and impeccable attention to detail by the restorative dentist and the laboratory technician. Undoubtedly, the members of this dental team have a wealth of knowledge and talent. However, the successful esthetic result attained for this patient was not a result of talent alone. It is a consequence of careful planning and communication among the members of the team, coupled with exquisite execution of the surgical, restorative, and technical phases of therapy.

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