

COMMENTARY

CLOSURE OF DIASTEMA AND GINGIVAL RECONTOURING USING DIRECT ADHESIVE RESTORATIONS: A CASE REPORT

Robert C. Margeas, DDS*

Patients present to the office with spaces between their teeth that they would like to have closed on a regular basis. There are numerous ways to treat these patients, which may include orthodontics, periodontics, and restorative dentistry. Often times, the treatment proposed is based on the comfort level or skill of the providing dentist. Porcelain veneers are often the treatment modality chosen because of the predictability and financial reward.

Composite resins, on the other hand, require a higher skill level by dentists because they are fabricating the restoration instead of the ceramist. The advent of newer composite resins, which give us added strength and polishability, provides us new modalities with which to satisfy patients' expectations.

The treatment that was provided in this paper was carefully planned. Often times, when closing diastemas, the teeth appear too large. Moving the line angles in and opening the labial embrasures allow a more narrow-appearing tooth. If the line angles are left further into the interproximal, then the teeth appear excessively wide.

The silicone matrix gives Dr. Araujo and colleagues the ability to have a lingual wall that is thin and allows for incisal translucency. Dentinal lobes are created with a dentin-like composite material, and an opalescent material is placed between the lobes. This approach creates a nice incisal halo. The finishing and polishing will allow for long lasting restorations.

The periodontal health is as important as the restorative work, and the authors do an excellent job explaining and preventing "black triangles" in the gingival embrasures.

Direct composite resins require practice in order to achieve a highly esthetic result. Often times, dentists do not charge a high-enough fee to justify the treatment it takes to provide this service at a high level of clinical excellence.

The authors are to be commended in the skillful manner in which this case was treated. Not only is the result beautiful, but it is also conservative and preserves the enamel.

**Private practice, Adjunct professor, Department of Operative Dentistry, University of Iowa College of Dentistry, Des Moines, IA, USA*

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