

COMMENTARY

Incisal Translucency of Vital Natural Unrestored Teeth: A Clinical Study¹

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A significant restorative challenge is the restoration of an anterior tooth in the esthetic zone that reproduces the appearance of adjacent anterior teeth to the tooth restored. Although there is artistry in creating an “invisible” restoration, one that only the patient and clinician know was placed, there is also having an understanding of the challenge in communicating and replicating the tooth appearance from the cervical enamel extending to the incisal edge. The authors/researchers of this article provide insight and understanding, a checklist of sorts, in developing a highly esthetic restoration that mimics the adjacent teeth.¹ Teeth restored in the esthetic zone must provide a range of appearances when light is reflected and refracted that include not only the surface form and color; but also the translucency, opacity, iridescence, surface luster, and fluorescence. By investigating the distribution of incisal translucency of unrestored vital maxillary anterior teeth, the authors provide the clinician with insight and a classification system to better describe how the translucent layers of the incisal edge appear. This classification system is extremely valuable when creating an esthetic road map for both directly placed anterior esthetic restorations and for communicating with the dental laboratory when anterior esthetic restorations are fabricated.

REFERENCE

1. Bayindir F, Gozalo-Diaz D, Kim-Pusateri S, Wee AG. Incisal translucency of vital natural unrestored teeth: a clinical study. *J Esthet Restor Dent* DOI 10.1111/j.1708-8240.2012.00511.x.

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