

BOOK REVIEW

The Science and Art of Porcelain Laminate Veneers

G. Gürel; Quintessence Publishing Co. Ltd; 2003; 525 pages; ISBN 1 850970 60 2; Price £138.00

Five hundred and twenty-five pages on porcelain laminate veneers – surely an excessive exercise – but if the broad context into which the author places this trendy element of cosmetic dentistry is of value to readers, the effort may well be worthwhile. This is less a book on a specific technique and more a treatise on the factors which contribute to the ethical, artistic and biological improvement of the appearance of teeth and their supporting tissues, perceived to be wanting in appearance. With this in mind, there are worthwhile ‘stand alone’ chapters on the key aspects of colour (contributed by Stephen Chu) and the concepts of overall oral aesthetic harmony, described as Smile Design (by the author). This material is authoritative and presented to the usual high Quintessence standard. There is little that is new in this section, but much that is important to any practitioner seeking to understand and meet contemporary aesthetic demands.

Adhesion is clearly discussed by Jean-Francis Roulet and others, while the biomechanical aspects of function and occlusion are covered in some depth by Claude Rufenacht. The fundamentals of adhesion to porcelain, enamel and dentine are covered in a user-friendly manner, with advice on specific products which could not be faulted at the time of writing. I was interested to note reference to *in vitro* (but not *in vivo*) studies implying that hybridization of exposed dentine immediately following preparation has clinical value. The more practitioners choose to bond porcelain to combinations of enamel and dentine, the more important this issue becomes. The description of methods of preparing porcelain surfaces for bonding (page 126) is unhelpful as it offers a mix of techniques and products without coming to a conclusion as to which is most appropriate. In both these areas, there is a plethora of laboratory evaluations and a dearth of prospective clinical data.

Dr Rufenacht provides a clear exposition of basic occlusal aspects and he includes the important work of Magne and co-workers on stress concentrations in teeth restored with bonded porcelain veneers. His illustration 4-13b does not clearly reinforce the undesirability of finishing in the lingual concavity. Both these contribu-

tors imply that resin–dentine bonds are long lasting. Time will tell.

The other contributing clinicians are Professor Korukud Demirel and Dr Frank Celenza. They enhance this book with thoughtful and clinically relevant sections on periodontal and orthodontic aspects of managing aesthetic treatments. Their chapters are well illustrated and they emphasize the multidisciplinary nature of management. Oh that every practitioner offering veneers considered the orthodontic and periodontal aspects prior to embarking on the operative phase!

The rest of the book belongs to Dr Gürel. He expounds in a logical and clinically relevant manner the need for holistic management of aesthetic challenges. He never offers porcelain laminate veneers as a ‘quick fix’, but provides a template for ethical management in which veneers play a significant part. This includes comprehensive analysis of the dentition, the preparation of diagnostic mock-ups and a careful evaluation of alternatives – critical aspects in therapy which is judged as much in aesthetic terms as simply mechanical. Classical ‘veneer’ situations are discussed and illustrated. These include diastema closure and the improvement of deeply discoloured teeth. His advice is invaluable and again it is clear that a multidisciplinary approach with orthodontic and periodontal involvement often contributes to the elegant results Dr Gürel shows in this book. Unusually for a text on aesthetic dentistry, I got the feeling that the majority of the cases illustrated showed a positive benefit to the patients.

The final chapter covers practice building and patient communication strategies in the field of aesthetic dentistry. It is sound and appropriate to all aspects of prosthodontics. I would, however, sound a note of caution on the whole ethos of ‘selling’ aesthetic dentistry. Practices and practitioners must have the skills to meet the aesthetic expectations of their patients. Within this text there is much which will help us to meet this goal.

Alastair Stokes

Eastman Continuing Professional Development
123 Grays Inn Road, London
E-mail: a.stokes@eastman.ucl.ac.uk

Copyright of Oral Diseases is the property of Blackwell Publishing Limited and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.