

## teeth

### Components of attractive smiles

Your cosmetic dentist will be evaluating many things when suggesting treatment for you. Since teeth fit into the face, not just the mouth, we must evaluate facial symmetry, lips, vertical and horizontal reference planes, smile lines, gum lines, amount of gum display, the 'bite' and any wear issues. Also important are the amount of teeth displayed when smiling and at rest, spacing, the condition of existing dentistry and inclinations of teeth. Teeth size (length and width), teeth proportion and tooth color (individual and overall) round out our evaluation.



## Cosmetic/aesthetic restorative options

### 1 All-porcelain crown & bridge solutions

The exciting news about the need for crowns or bridges or replacing old, outdated ones is that it is no longer necessary to have thick, opaque, dead looking teeth, dark metal lines around the gum margins of the tooth or unhealthy looking gum tissue at the finish line of crowns. Due to advances in technology and adhesive techniques, most crown and bridge restorations can be done metal free with all-porcelain designs. Your cosmetic dentist and highly skilled aesthetic ceramist can create beautiful, life-like aesthetics that are virtually undetectable.

### 2 Porcelain inlay/onlay restorations

As the aesthetic expectations of dental patients are growing, new solutions to routine restorative dentistry have developed. In the past most routine fillings were metal amalgam. As things break down and need replacement they get larger and larger and darker and darker until they are too large and end up being crowns. Today we can intercept that process by placing porcelain restorations in only the portion of the tooth missing because of decay or fracture and fit it to the tooth like a puzzle piece. These are called inlay/onlay restorations. They are bonded to the tooth, the finish lines are blended and a perfect seal is created by the adhesives essentially making the restoration part of the tooth. The color blends into the tooth color and adds tremendous strength to the remaining tooth.

### 3 Porcelain veneers

Porcelain veneers are the conservative state-of-the-art solution to change color, shape, alignment or contour in the anterior teeth making up your smile. They are custom-designed thin shells of porcelain bonded to a minimally prepared tooth surface creating ideal aesthetics and function. Porcelain veneers provide

superior natural aesthetics and comfort. Long-term success is expected and is dependent on many factors, the most important being proper diagnosis, treatment planning and the skill of the cosmetic dentist and aesthetic ceramist.

### 4 Dental implants – tooth replacement

The most recent advancements in dental implant technology have allowed us to place implant dentistry into the realm of 'cosmetic dentistry'. New, beautiful ceramic materials with unsurpassed strength have allowed us to replace or cover the connecting components and the dental restorations used to attach to implants. Cosmetic dentists now have the technology to make implant-supported restorations undetectable from tooth-supported cosmetic restorations. With immediate load implant solutions we can literally remove a tooth, place an implant and attach a replacement tooth at the same visit.

### Your cosmetic dentist & cost

Dental cosmetic/aesthetic procedures can be expensive due to high technical cost, facility cost and time requirements for the practitioner and ceramist. The time requirements for assessment, treatment planning and carrying out the treatment are much higher than for typical family and general practice dentistry. The most expensive cosmetic procedures however are those that don't meet the patient expectations or worse yet, need to be redone. Make sure you are comfortable with the professional you have chosen. Make sure you see photos of completed cases that show the practitioner's expertise. Make sure a comprehensive approach is taken, utilizing a network of specialists if needed. Make sure you get a good 'gut feeling' when in the office; a feeling that you are in the right place and are going to be well taken care of.