Two appliances for optimum results

By Dr Richard Field, UK

For patients with minor to moderate anterior crowding or protrusion, IAS Academy offers a number of appliances that provide a minimally invasive treatment pathway alongside ethical, effective and safe delivery. In this case, two separate appliances were chosen, using the Academy’s universal technologies for both, including the SpacewizeTM crowding calculator, ArchwizeTM 3D treatment planning, 3D printed models and space creation guides.

Case presentation
A 29-year-old female patient presented to the practice looking to improve the aesthetics of her smile before leaving the country to go travelling for one year. Medically, she was fit and well and her general oral health was satisfactory.

The patient’s main aesthetic concern was the lower crowding as well as the diminutive upper laterals. The patient’s UL1 was darker in colour compared to surrounding teeth, most likely as a result of sclerosis from previous trauma. Further tests revealed that the UL1 remained vital with no signs of apical pathology. From an orthodontic perspective, there was mild lower anterior crowding as well as mild rotation of her upper left central incisor. (Fig. 1)

Treatment planning
The option of comprehensive fixed orthodontics was discussed with the patient in addition to a number of other possible treatment pathways, highlighting the benefits and disadvantages of each appliance. In the end she opted for a Slim Bow ClearSmile Inman Aligner for the lower arch – which is visually invisible from the front on – and ClearSmile Aligners for the upper arch to slightly rotate the UL1. Home whitening was also discussed for both arches, with UL1 to have whitening on labial and buccal surfaces of the tooth and finally composite bonding to bring the lowers into a more ideal proportion.

As part of the diagnostics, photographs were taken and the SpacewizeTM digital tool used to analyse the arch form. The SpacewizeTM tool is used to confirm the patient’s suitability for ClearSmile Inman Aligner treatment and predicts the approximate amount of IPR (interproximal reduction) needed. The curve is set so that the teeth are moved to the most functional, stable and aesthetic position with the use of landmark pointing. The SpacewizeTM trace also acts as an occlusal plan so that the digital setup made by the lab follows exactly the planned prescription from the trace provided. Both digital and physical 3D printed models were made and discussed with the patient. This is an important step of consent as it shows the patient the actual possible outcome and the physical contact with the models, which helps the patient to feel connected to the treatment plan. (Fig. 4 and 5)

The digital setup predicted three aligners with no IPR needed on the upper arch and 0.6mm needed for the lower arch.

Treatment pathway
Once fitted, the upper ClearSmile Aligners were changed every two weeks as well as reviewing the lower ClearSmile Inman Aligner. (Fig. 6) The total time for alignment was six weeks. Once satisfied with tooth position several sets of impressions were taken.

The first was for a wax up of the upper arch to be used as a guide for composite bonding as well as whitening.
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Two options were discussed with the patient:
1. Make all the teeth more opaque in appearance to match UL1 using an opaque composite resin.
2. Directly restore the tooth with a minimal facial preparation to allow for layering with more translucent composite.

With the patient’s consent, the UL1 was given a minimal facial preparation prior to restoring upper y with direct bonding using the wax-up as a guide. (Fig. 8-10)

Conclusion
Simple anterior alignment orthodontics can offer very simple and efficient treatments to patients who might otherwise have chosen more invasive procedures. Using digital planning via IAS Academy’s unique landmark Spacewize® Archwize® 3D printing pathway, the patient can be consented at every stage and full control can be kept of the anterior occlusion even when using different appliances, as they are ultimately built on a co-ordinated 3D setup.

With a combination of bleaching and some bonding, dramatic results can be achieved with very low risk and this kind of treatment can be afforded by many more patients. The concept of align, bleach and bond (ABB), as pioneered by IAS Academy, is redefining the way many dentists approach cosmetic / aesthetic and functional dentistry altogether. (Fig. 11-14)

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