When aesthetics matter

Dr Stefen Koubi, France, and Hilal Kuday, Turkey, about the use of new materials in dental aesthetics

One of the major issues leading to unsatisfactory results in fabricating several ceramic restorations in the anterior region is shade integration. Commonly, patients have a combination of discoloured prepared teeth, metal constructions and teeth showing no discolouration. Achieving a harmonious overall appearance in these situations is a challenge. Currently, the use of glass-ceramic materials, such as IPS e.max Press lithium disilicate (Ivoclar Vivadent), is the textbook approach in terms of aesthetic integration. These materials offer the possibility of creating unique translucent restorations that mimic dental enamel. A wide array of possibilities for cementation also facilitates the creation of lifelike results.

In the past, severe discolouration was often a reason that glass ceramics could not be used to fabricate restorations. The continual improvement of the materials, however, has led to the development of comprehensive systems such as IPS e.max. This system offers the advantages of press ceramics, including accuracy of fit and aesthetics, while eliminating previous drawbacks, such as restricted use on dark preparations. That we have glass ceramics in various levels of opacity and translucency at our disposal opens up the possibility of creating unique restorations and numerous combinations of single-tooth and small bridge restorations with glass ceramics.

Ivoclar Vivadent, while using a rubber cementation system and by imitating the light effects, lifelike restorations were fabricated in spite of the unfavourable initial situation (Figs. 13–15).