Learning Curve

With more than 4,500 new cases opened every year there is a wealth of experience within Dental Protection from which all of us can learn.

In a world where most things we purchase are ready-made rather than bespoke, we are protected by a money-back returns policy in case we don’t like something after we’ve paid for it. However, dentists spend the majority of their time creating custom-made items which makes such an approach expensive and best avoided if possible.

Consider the case of a young male patient in his early twenties who requested his dentist to close his midline diastema. The patient was soon to be married and wanted the work done before the wedding day. It was quite a large gap of some 4mm between the upper central incisors, but the dentist confidently assured the young man that he could close the gap and produce ‘a perfect smile’ ready for the wedding photos.

When the patient returned for the preparation to be done, he asked the dentist to prepare the two lateral incisors as well as the centrals. This was duly done and an impression was taken before the patient rebooked to return a week later.

At the fitting appointment, the two central veneers were tried in. The patient agreed they looked fine and he was pleased with the way they closed the diastema. To save time, the dentist did not try in the two other veneers and went ahead and cemented all four of them. When he now looked in the mirror, the patient was surprised at the result and not at all happy with the size of the central incisors. He also felt the veneers were quite bulky under his lip. The dentist reassured him and asked him to try them for a couple of weeks.

A tricky situation

The patient phoned the next day saying that both he and his fiancée were very upset with the result and that the teeth were now far too prominent. With the wedding taking place in less than a fortnight the dentist agreed to replace them at his own cost. The patient had lost confidence in the dentist by now and instead went to another dentist who replaced the veneers for a considerably higher fee, which the patient now demanded from the original dentist.

Whenever aesthetics are involved in dentistry, it is wise to obtain the patient’s consent on the complete final appearance before finishing the case, particularly if it will be difficult or expensive to redo the treatment once it has been cemented or bonded in place.

Look out for another Learning Curve feature from Dental Protection in future editions of Dental Tribune UK.

ESTHETIC CURRICULUM

Master Program Chair: Dr. Ed McLaren & Dr. Sascha Joovanovic
Session Chairs: Drs. Didier Dietisci, Mauro Fradeani & Stefan Paul

SESSION I - FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 1, 2010
IN ATHENS, GREECE

DIRECT RESTORATIONS AND ADHESIVES
with DR. DIDIER DIETISCHI and others

SESSION II - JUNE 23 - 26, 2010
IN ATHENS, GREECE

INDIRECT RESTORATIONS, FULL CERAMIC CROWNS AND VENEERS
with DR. MAURO FRADEANl and others

SESSION III - OCTOBER 7 - 10, 2010
IN ATHENS, GREECE

ALL CERAMIC RESTORATIONS AND FIXED PROSTHODONTICS
with DR. STEFAN PAUL and others

SESSION IV - NOV 29 - DEC 3, 2010
IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

GRADUATING WEEK AT UCLA
with DRs. MCLAREN, JOOVANOVIC, LISAGE
SCHOENBAUM, P. MAGNE & M. MAGNE

PROGRAM FEATURES

• CLASSROOM EDUCATION
• LIVE PATIENT TREATMENTS
• CASE PRESENTATIONS
• HANDS-ON
• 90 HOURS SELF-STUDY
• 217 HOURS CE
• 2 CERTIFICATES from gIDE and UCLA

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