

## A Multi-Disciplinary Approach To Cosmetic Problems

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**C**osmetic dentistry requires a constant striving to keep current with the evolution of materials, treatment techniques and philosophies. It is this combination of artistry and science that is the foundation of cosmetic dentistry.

This young woman suffered from an assortment of cosmetic dental problems. As a result of antibiotic treatment as a child, her teeth exhibited the familiar discoloration associated with tetracycline. These darkened teeth were gray beyond the C range in the Vita shade guide. She took her first step 15 years ago to improve her smile by prepping her six maxillary anterior teeth for porcelain/gold crowns. This was five years before the introduction of porcelain veneers, and 10 years before the advent of dentin bonding. The previous dentist delivered, for the late 1970s, an excellent result. Treatment was confined to the six front teeth for conservative reasons, and the patient was satisfied with her whiter smile at the time.

Her chief complaint was the chipped porcelain on the upper right cuspid. She agreed that her smile, beyond the six front teeth, could use some improvement. The six anterior crowns are opaque and too white for the rest of her smile. Her lower teeth and upper bicuspids are much too dark. Highlighting this contrast, the maxillary first bicuspids were distally rotated, leaving wide mesial embrasures. This is compounded by the palatal position of the bicuspids, leaving an angular rather than a round arch form. She even commented that it looked like she "was missing some teeth there" (Fig. 1).

The patient agreed that further improvement includes replacement crowns for the six anterior teeth. She was understandably reluctant, however, to undergo the preparation process for any additional crowns. The treatment consists of vital bleaching of the mandibular teeth followed by crowns for the six maxillary anterior teeth, and veneers for



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12