Enhanced gingival aesthetics

Optimising conventional dentures with an innovative veneering material

By Dr Jiro Abe & Kyoko Kokubo, Japan

Stability, function and aesthetics— in fabricating complete dentures, optimum results can only be achieved if the individual details and natural forms are successfully combined. In addition to the rehabilitation of functional aspects, the aesthetic reconstruction of the teeth and soft oral tissue can considerably enhance the patient’s self-confidence.

TREATING EDENTULOUS PATIENTS

The maxilla (Fig. 2). The alveolar ridge showed an asymmetrical progression in the mandibular arch (Fig. 3). After the initial assessment of the patient’s oral condition and consultation on the treatment options available to her, we decided to create new dentures for the maxilla and mandible. Conventional complete dentures were selected as the treatment option.

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concave surfaces in the alveolar area, and subtle stipplings allowed us to achieve a 3-D depth effect quickly and easily (Fig. 10). The individual layers were light cured for 20 seconds each. Intermediate curing can, for instance, be performed with a Quick curing light (Ivoclar Vivadent). Prior to final polymerisation in a light furnace (Lumamat 100, Ivoclar Vivadent), a glycerine gel (SR Gel, Ivoclar Vivadent) was applied on to the denture base in a covering but not too thick a coating to minimise the formation of an inhibition layer. Only minor shape corrections were necessary before polishing the dentures. Tungsten carbide burs are best used for this step—the inhibition layer should be removed from the entire surface. Finishing was achieved by first smoothing the surfaces with rubber polishers, followed by mechanical high-gloss polishing at low rotational speed using a goat hair brush, leather buff and Universal Polishing Paste (Ivoclar Vivadent; Figs. 11 & 12).

Result

The patient attained a revived aesthetic appearance owing to the natural aesthetics of the maxillary and mandibular dentures. Her smile told us that she had her self-confidence back, which was the most satisfying reward for our work. The dentures were characterised by a dynamic interplay of shades and natural light reflections, nuanced gingival surfaces and strong, healthy-looking teeth (Fig. 15). They showed a stable fit and provided the desired suction effect. Assessment of the phonetic and functional criteria confirmed the success of the treatment. Compared with the preoperative situation, the new dentures imparted a clearly more youthful appearance to the face of the patient (Fig. 14).

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