

# On smile design: Conservatively placed IPS d.SIGN veneers to correct a diastema

Authors\_Harald Heindl, USA, & Dr Stephen Phelan, Canada



**Fig. 1** \_Initial situation: what some people see as a sign of beauty, others may see as a flaw; the patient disliked her diastema between teeth #11 and 21.

**Fig. 2** \_After conservative preparation, the shade was determined (A1).

\_Today's patients expect restorations that not only function properly, but are also highly aesthetic. Unlike some years ago, different media outlets today afford patients greater knowledge and insight into the possibilities and the potential of modern materials and treatment. They expect us to achieve optimum outcomes when designing their smile, and rightly so. The most significant goal, however, is still the

restoration of oral health in the most conservative way.

When choosing a treatment option, dentists and technicians must satisfy not only the clinical requirements, but also the expectations and goals of the patients. In cases in which patients decline orthodontic treatment, adhesively bonded porcelain veneers are a viable treatment

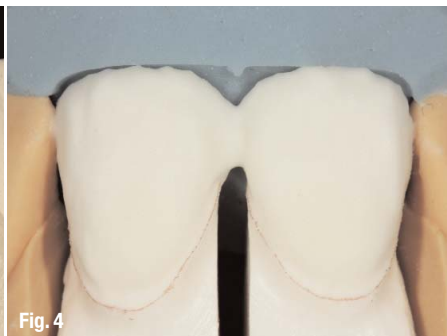
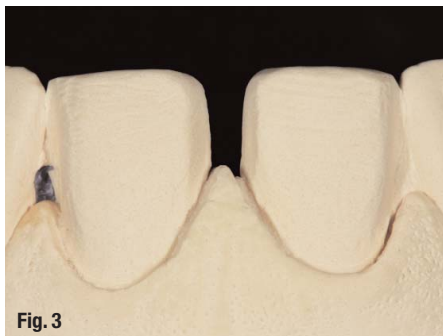




Fig. 6

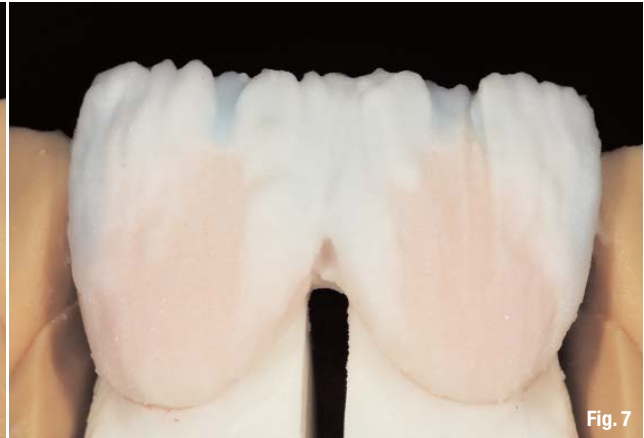


Fig. 7

option to modify the appearance of tooth position and form, to close diastemas or cervical embrasures or to change the tooth shade. Porcelain veneers are one of the best restorative treatment options available from biological, functional, mechanical and aesthetic perspectives. Preservation of enamel is one of the main concerns if such a treatment is envisaged.

The conventional laminate veneer techniques often require aggressive removal of dental tissue, which goes against the principles of conservative dentistry. New techniques and materials allow aesthetically pleasing and functionally long-lasting restorations to be produced while limiting tooth preparation. By using diagnostic guides, such as a wax-up, and a fluorapatite glass-ceramic material (IPS d.SIGN, Ivoclar Vivadent), dentists and dental technicians can fabricate minimally invasive ceramic veneers and thus provide their patients with lifelike, aesthetic restorations that also meet the functional criteria.

### Case presentation

A 52-year-old female patient presented with complaints about the shape and size of her max-

illary centrals, and she wanted the midline diastema closed (Fig. 1). After discussion with the patient, it was decided that porcelain veneers (IPS d.SIGN) would be placed on teeth # 11 and 21. We wanted to apply a conservative protocol to fulfil the patient's wishes.

Leucite-reinforced fluorapatite layering ceramic (IPS d.SIGN, for instance) is ideal for bonded ceramic restorations such as veneers. The material's special qualities include outstanding optical properties and wear behaviour. The physical properties are very close to those found in natural teeth. As a result, IPS d.SIGN is the material of choice for treatments requiring conservative veneers.

By using a direct layering technique on refractory dies, laboratory ceramists can provide their customers and patients with restorations that display the vitality and fluorescence required to make them indistinguishable from natural dentition. With increased brightness, higher shade consistency, natural opalescence and a wide range of characterisation options, this glass-ceramic material enables professional creativity in addressing a variety of restorative cases. Additionally, the IPS d.SIGN porcelain

**Fig. 3** The working stone model for the creation of the veneers.

**Fig. 4** The material was layered on refractory dies. The silicone matrix fabricated on the basis of the wax-up was used as a guide.

**Fig. 5** Quality dentine materials together with excellent technical and manual skills are required to create tooth-like veneers made up of many individual layers.

**Fig. 6** The stratification was created by applying various brightness and translucency levels.

**Fig. 7** The dental lobes were created in the incisal area with custom-mixed ivory- and cream-coloured materials, which were applied in thin layers.

**Fig. 8** The baked veneers.

**Fig. 9** The entire porcelain surface was coated with silver powder to better assess symmetry and surface morphology.



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11

**Fig. 10\_** After thermal glazing, the restorations were mechanically polished.

**Fig. 11\_** The delicate ceramic veneers already looked impressive on the model.

enables dentists to limit much of the veneer preparation to enamel, thereby reducing the risk of overexposing dentine.

### Clinical preparation

After the patient had accepted the treatment plan, the dental technician created a diagnostic wax-up. In order to observe the principles of conservative preparation, a purely additive technique was used. Wax was added to the model to build up the new tooth forms. A resin matrix (mock-up) was then created from the diagnostic wax-up to allow the patient to preview the restorations prior to tooth preparation.

After patient approval, the mock-up was used as a blueprint for enamel reduction. The patient was anesthetised and depth cuts were placed in the incisal and cervical third of the matrix. Proper depth cuts were made with a diamond bur, using the matrix as a guide. The cuts were marked with a pencil for easy identification. The mock-up was removed and the necessary dental enamel for the veneer preparations was

removed using large round-ended diamond burs (Fig. 2).

Finally, the preparations were checked with vertical and palatal putty stents. These stents had been created previously from the diagnostic wax-up to ensure that the preparations were compatible with the veneer shape. The provisional restorations were inserted and checked. Particular emphasis was given to the embrasure form, where a space was left to allow the gingival tissue to recover fully after placement. The provisionals were spot-etched with phosphoric acid solution and luted with resin cement. The patient returned after a few days, a facebow was created, and the case was sent to the dental ceramist (Fig. 3).

### Laboratory procedure

The veneers were built up on the refractory dies using the IPS d.SIGN porcelain (Fig. 4). Prior to the actual layering procedure, margin material was applied in a thin layer as far as the margins and baked.

**Figs. 12 & 13\_** The seated restorations.



Fig. 12



Fig. 13

Porcelain stratification was initiated by placing a layer of deep dentine on the facial, interproximal and incisal areas. For the subsequent layering steps, the resin matrix from the wax-up served as a guide. The veneers were then built up using dentine layers of different values and translucencies with the appropriate dentine materials and manual skills (Figs. 5 & 6).

Finally, the dental lobes were characterised by applying thin layers of custom-mixed ivory- and cream-coloured intensive materials (Fig. 7). A combination of translucent and opalescent enamel powders was used to cover the entire facial aspect of the veneers (Fig. 8).

After the initial bake, the veneers were checked on the master dies. The contours and shape were finalised and the veneers were baked for a second time (Fig. 9).

Final contouring and surface texturing were completed with diamond burs and green stones (Fig. 10). After the final polish, the internal aspects of the veneers were etched with 9.5 % hydrofluoric acid for 60 seconds. The thin veneers were then ready for seating and delivered to the dentist (Fig. 11).

### Final seating

Once the provisionals had been removed, it was important to polish the preparations with pumice and to thoroughly clean them subsequently.

The veneers were tried in individually to inspect the fit and then collectively to evaluate the contact areas optimally. The veneers were placed using a try-in gel in order to give the patient a preview of the final outcome. The result was outstanding, and thus the veneers were definitively luted into place according to standard bonding protocol with a resin cement. After final polishing, the occlusion was adjusted and checked.

The patient's expectations had been met: the restorations closed the diastema, the newly designed anterior teeth fulfilled the aesthetic expectations of the patient, and her smile was more relaxed and she looked more confident (Figs. 12 & 13).



Fig. 14

### Conclusion

Bonded veneers can represent a minimally invasive treatment option. If the appearance of the anterior teeth is to be improved or modified, they are an attractive alternative to orthodontic treatment.

The IPS d.SIGN fluorapatite material features properties that come very close to the optical and physical characteristics, as well as the wear resistance of natural teeth. With this material, veneers can be fabricated that are virtually indistinguishable from natural dentition.

The procedure discussed in this case allowed a conservative and highly aesthetic veneer restoration to be fabricated. Both the patient's aesthetic goals and the dentist's functional requirements were met (Fig. 14).

Fig. 14 Two years after treatment: the gingiva is healthy and the patient still happy.

### contact

cosmetic  
dentistry



**Harald Heindl, MDT**  
Aesthetic Dental Creations  
Mill Creek, WA 98012  
USA

aedecr@comcast.net



**Dr Stephen Phelan**  
1500 Heritage Way  
Oakville, ON L6M 4M7  
Canada

dr.sphelan@cogeco.ca