

VENEER RESTORATION

Veneer is a type of restoration that would improve the appearance of the teeth. It is commonly done on upper front teeth. It has the advantage of minimally prepared the teeth involved compared to full crown, or cap. It can be done to improve or change the shape, size, colour and alignment of the front teeth to make them more beautiful. It either can cover only the front part of the teeth, or both the front part and the end of the teeth, depending on the purpose of treatment. Veneer can be done on a single tooth, or multiple teeth. Better aesthetic result can be achieved with multiple veneers.

The teeth need to be prepared or drilled to a certain dimension to accommodate the veneer. Veneer is an extremely thin shell porcelain or composite resin, cemented to the teeth. Tricks on cementation can be applied to improve the aesthetic as the cement comes in many colours.

With current technologies, veneer can be done in a single visit. Pre-shaped casings are available in the market to construct veneer directly to the teeth. Usually, composite resin is used with the casing. Old methods would involve at least two visits to the dentist, as the porcelain veneer would be fabricated in the laboratory on the model or cast of the prepared teeth. The dentist will construct temporary restoration if it involved two or multiple visits. Therefore, patient will still have pleasant appearance during the treatment period. Patient can give feedback to the dentist on the shape and size of veneers as this would improve the aesthetics of the teeth.



Veneer in progress

The main downside of veneer is they are easily chipped off or fractured. This is due to the minimal thickness of the veneer, together with the brittle nature of porcelain. Patient must be very careful not to bite on anything hard with the veneered teeth as to prevent fracture. One of the ways that can be done is to cut the food into small pieces and chew with the back of the teeth. The other disadvantage is it could dislodge from tooth. This could be due to the failure of the cement used, either inappropriate type of cement or incorrect technique during cementation being applied. Staining of the veneer is very uncommon especially if its porcelain veneer. Discoloration could happen if the veneer made from composite resin.

Veneer requires easy maintenance. Normal brushing and flossing are enough to maintain the health of the gum around the veneer. It is important to keep the gum healthy to ensure longevity of the veneer, which can last up to 5-7 years.

Case selection is very crucial too. Proper planning must be done if the patient presented with certain habit such as grinding at night, or the presenting teeth are short. Stabilization of caries and gum disease also need to be performed before proceeding with veneer. The dentist will do some examination and would come up with the best treatment planning.



Before Veneer



After Veneer

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