

# Complex Dental Treatment: Pros and Cons

DR JEAN PAUL DEMAJO OFFERS AN INSIGHT INTO THE DECISIONS LEADING TO THE CHOICE OF A COMPLEX DENTAL PROCEDURE



Extra-Oral Before Treatment



Intra-Oral Before treatment



Extra-Oral After treatment

Naturally, when one decides on anything, the advantages and disadvantages must be weighed up. Once looked into, the correct choice of treatment becomes obvious. Here are the conclusions drawn, enabling the patient to feel confident about their choice of treatment.

## A Case Scenario

### Patient Complaints

- Crowding of teeth
- Mobile teeth
- Tooth colour
- Lack of Confidence

### Crowding and tooth mobility

Tooth crowding is corrected by creating space. This is done either by extracting one or more teeth or by using a fixed brace to move teeth. The brace would widen the arch and then, once having created space, align the teeth in the correct format. This patient with severe crowding in the lower jaw did not wish to undergo lengthy orthodontic treatment.

On top of that, due to this crowding, combined with severe tooth mobility, extractions of these teeth seemed to be the only solution. The replacement could have either been done with a conventional

removable denture or with dental implants mounted with and fixed bridge. The patient opted for the fixed option of an implant-retained bridge correcting not only the crowding and misalignment of the lower teeth but also eliminating these teeth with very poor prognosis.

### Colour

The colour of teeth is a result of intrinsic factors such as our genes and extrinsic factors such as our dietary and social habits and medication taken. The resulting colour may be even or multilayered, the latter mostly due to antibiotic therapy or particular illnesses during our early years of life.

Either way if conventional bleaching methods – laser and home bleaching kits – are employed, the different coloured sections of the teeth will also bleach differently. Hence, the differences in colour will show up even more. In cases like these, the only way to achieve a uniform colour is to place veneers. These may be done with composite resin or porcelain.

Porcelain veneers, unlike resin veneers, offer a permanent colour, which will not change when exposed to any extrinsic factors like wine, tea or coffee. In fact, porcelain veneers are considered to be the only permanent treatment for tooth

whitening. This patient opted for porcelain veneers in the top jaw as she not only wished to modify the colour of her teeth but also to straighten them.

### Confidence

Once completed, the results speak for themselves and confidence is at an all-time high. The patient had undergone 10 extractions, the placement of four implants with simultaneous bone grafting, as well as 10 porcelain veneers. The veneer treatment was very quick, completed in a few days, while the implant treatment was a lengthy procedure lasting four months, during which the patient had to wear a removable denture to allow the implant and grafted bone to heal.

The end result, however, covered all the initial complaints and resulted in an excellent outcome with very good long-term prognosis. This nature of treatment also carries a guarantee which gives the added piece of mind for years to follow.

Ask your dentist! 

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