

A New Vision in Dental Art...Tattooth

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Body Tattoo is passé, Modern youths are now heading for dental tattoos. So don't be surprised, if your girlfriend/boy friend breaks into a toothy smile to show off an angel or a shall.

Have you heard of the latest buzz in the fashion scene... 'Tattooth' (tattoos on the teeth. It has evolve as a rage in Japan & spreading old over the world.¹



Abstract

Fashion is an ever changing world & the rules of their dynamics also apply to dentistry. Previous years dentistry was something that was equated only with pain, fear & discomfort. But gradually times have charged. Dentistry & dental treatments are now one of the necessary aspects of a healthy life. And down the line fashion aspects are also getting incorporated into it.

Body art & tattoos have been a fad globally for many years, but now Tooth tattoo is the latest vogue. These days youngsters are going gage about getting their tooth tattooed. Dental tattoos are soon catching up in India too. This article is presenting types of tattoos & various designs of tattoos.

Key Words : Tattoo, Dental Tattoo, Tooth Tattoo, Trend.

Introduction

The concept of decorating or enhancing teeth is actually quite ancient. The practice of soft tissue perching lie nose, ear, eyebrows with ornaments, jewelleries & body tattooing are ages old started in Egypt, Chine & medieval around 5000 years back. They were considered as a fashion & style statement by many younger.

Aesthetics is most selling point of dentistry. But other than normal aesthetic & smile enhancing procedures few more

aspects of dentistry have developed that can be truly called as out of the box fashion. These are tooth Jewellery & Dental Tattoos. But if we do some research we can find that tooth fashion or decoration was actually practiced long time back in many Asian Cultures.

Dental tattoos are not new, it started in the West about 8-10 years ago when hip-hop singers & rappers shouted spurting them in their music videos & then younger started aping them. In both China & Japan women at one point started their teeth black as part of their beastly regimen & in many cultures. Modern dentistry gave use to the idea of dental tattoos.²

Steven Howard is a first artist who used his unique talent on teeth to become a pioneer of this art called the 'Tattooth'. He began designing on false teeth in a mini lab & has linked about 500 teeth since then. The images range from animals, celebrities logos, letters and any other art form that you so desire.³

Dental tattoos are western designs which are added to dental crowns before the crowns are cemented. Dental tattoos can potentially be applied to any tooth & they run a wide gamut of styles, colours & designs. This emerging trend is popular in people aged

2. Permanent Tattoos-4

Permanent tattoos are drilled on the tooth. Once a done you cannot get them removed. Inscribing permanent tattoos can take long, perhaps hours depending on the design chosen by the customer. These tattoos are pointed on a dental crown that will be permanently placed on a prepared tooth. To place a crown, tooth enamel must be prepared. The crown is permanently secured. If you want to remove tattoo, you need to remove crown & place new crown. These can be sensitivity & decay, growing beneath crown.

Site for placement of Dental Tattoos-5

The most preferred areas for dental tattoos are the upper canine, upper lateral incisors premolars & molars, tablalside Tattoos (facing the Lip & Cheek) lingual side tattoos (facing the tongue).

Design for Dental Tattoos-5

Popular designs include heart & diamond thin stores, playing cards, style shapes, shooting stars, ladylongs butterflies, rainbows. Tiny portrates of conic stars like Marlyn Monnoe Eye is Queen of England Colorful animals, cartoon characters, logos of brands like Hareley Davidson.

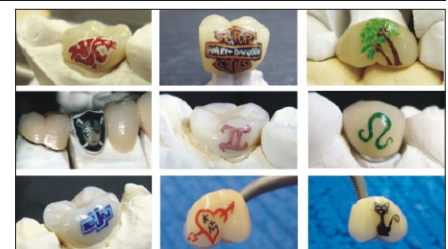


between 14-35 years. Both men & women are equally eager to get their teeth tattooed.

Types of Dental Tattoos

1. Temporary Tattoos-4

Temporary tattoos are designs in the form of templates that are stuck on the teeth. Sticking a temporary tattoo takes just 15-20 minutes & tattoos come in a variety of designs. If considering temporary tattoo make sure that the chemicals used in your mouth & on your teeth are safe for human consumption will not harm your tooth enamel and completely hygienic.



Procedure to Make Dental Tattoos

Temporary Tattoos are also called as 'ghasher tats' are glued on to the teeth using a special water resistant adhesive which fixes it



to tooth enamel. Their glue needs to be strong to with stand eating a brushing. The glue is tatically mild phosphoric acid. A drop of glue is put on the tooth & then the tattoo is stuck on it. They last upto three months. Sticking tattoo takes 15-20 minutes.⁵

Permanent Tattoos are done by etching the design on false tooth i.e. dental crown. Later the dentist simply incorporates it on a set of teeth. It can be removed easily, whenever you like by simply grinding it off.⁶

Removal of Dental Tattoos⁴

Dental Tattoos can be removed by grinding away the upper layers of the crown, but do not want to replace the entire crown.

Even moiré temporary option is to apply specialized decals to teeth however can should be taken when removing such decals to make sure that all residue is removed from the teeth & to avoid swallowing the decal.

Oral Hygiene Status for use of Dental Tattoos¹

There are no side effects but it depends on person's dental hygiene. Some dentists are concerned that plaque can build up around a tooth tattoo, which can lead to decay. It is

possible that regular use of temporary tooth tattoos could lead to some disoperation of the tooth's surface, but this can be easily rectified with a home tooth whitening kit.

Merits of Dental Tattoos⁴

1. Painless procedure.
2. Taattoos can be easily removed in five minutes in the dentists office with just a little grinding with a rubber wheel.

Demertis of Dental Tattoos⁴

1. Possibility of building plaque around the tattoo leading to decay.
2. Enamel of tooth as highly smooth surface & it tattooing is not done professionally, it can cause dental carries around margins of tattoo.
3. Tattoo gets abroaded with time & needs to be replaced.
4. Chemical used for placing tattoos is not completely safe.

Discussion

Dental tattoos prove that apparently skin is not the only area that can be decorated with a tattoo. Dental tattoos form the latest trend in India. Using tattoo to desirable ornamental designs is a bit of a misnomer, as tattoo is a

pigment mark made by piercing the skin. In the case of dental tattoo the teeth are not actually pierced even touched with a needle, the material which covers teeth is enamel, not skin. However the end result is the same in case of dental tattoo.⁸

You can get tattoos done on the teeth to make your smile bok cute, and get that raughty glint and you flash a smile like a pirate.

So interested to have a e-tattoo...then go for it...

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