

Bridging the Gap Between Periodontics & Prosthodontics Via GumVeneer : A Case Report

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ABSTRACT

The long tooth effect with interdental spaces appearing as “black triangles” or “black holes” is associated with cases of multiple gingival recession having periodontitis and horizontal bone loss hence the esthetics is compromised, to improve the smile line of the patient various periodontal surgeries were thought of but finally it was concluded that the smile line of the patient could only be improved by a prosthetic means that is gingival veneer, which snaps into the interdental spaces thus covering the “black triangles” or the “black holes” and in turn improving the confidence in the patient and making him socially more acceptable.

Key words: Gingival recession, Gum veneer, Esthetic smile.

INTRODUCTION

Esthetics is a major focus of Contemporary dentistry. Esthetic dental treatment can enhance a patient's own intensely personal image of how he or she looks and how he or she would like to look.

As Frush² observes a “smile can be attractive a prime asset to a person's appearance and it can be a powerful factor in the ego and desirable life experiences of a human being”. It cannot be treated with indifference because of its deep emotional significance.

Sometimes the maxillary anterior teeth are unesthetically proportioned after periodontal therapy giving long tooth effect, the interdental spaces appear as “black triangles” or “black holes”. Thus esthetic gingival reconstruction by means of veneers came into action.¹

Gum veneer is basically an acrylic appliance made to cover multiple areas of root (cemental) exposure due to recession caused by disease or after periodontal treatment following periodontal flap surgery.

It not only covers the root cementum and interdental spaces but also provides supports to the lip and provides an acceptable “gingival contour”.⁵

PARTY GUMS⁵

This is a prosthetic device to correct definite esthetic problems of major concern to the patient in the anterior segment of the dentition. It reestablishes gingival contour to correct gingival recession from vigorous tooth brushing or major periodontal surgery. Other names of gum veneer are - party gums, gingival facade, gingival prosthesis, gum veneer and prosthetic gingival veneer.

GINGIVAL FACADE

A class V restoration on single teeth that have

undergone severe recession from surgery, tooth brush wear or muscular or frenular pull the restoration comprises an acrylic resin that is colour adapted to the patient's normal gingival (Larato 1970)³.

GINGIVAL PROSTHESIS

An appliance designed to replace the gingival contour in an anterior sextant, where following periodontal surgery, the teeth have longer clinical crowns and the interproximal embrasures are open. It is made of denture acrylic material and can be used secondarily as a retainer for stabilizing mobile teeth. (Swenson and Hansen 1961)⁷.

PROSTHETIC GINGIVAL VENEER^{4,6}

This prosthetic device is constructed to compensate for the loss of gingiva following periodontal surgery in the anterior sextant of the maxillary arch. Early radical surgeries involved the removal of excessive amounts of gingiva resulting in exposure of root surfaces and leading to esthetic and very often phonetic defects later on acrylic veneers were fabricated to cover the root surfaces and large interdental spaces thus affording a more normal appearance.

CASE REPORT

A 21 yrs female patient and 24 yrs female patient, visited the Department of Periodontics, SPPIDMS, Lucknow with periodontal problem. On clinical examination deep pockets were present along with multiple gingival recession, radiographically there was horizontal bone loss, hence periodontal surgery was planned. After healing there was reduction in the pocket depth along with gingival shrinkage giving a long teeth appearance with “interdental spaces” popularly known in periodontics as the “black triangles”. (Fig-1) Hence now esthetics was the prime concern for the patients, to cover these black triangles or black holes, various periodontal surgeries like (coronally displaced flap, gingival grafts) cannot be undertaken hence treatment through prosthetic means was thought, by the fabrication of a gingival mask or gum veneer as it was quite an inexpensive and appropriate treatment protocol with less dental appointments.

METHOD

The impression by the help of rubber base impression material is made. Dental stone is poured to make the cast. The cast should have the impression of the gingival embrasures specially in the region in which the veneer is to be fabricated. Color is of prime concern in the fabrication of the acrylic gum veneer as wrong color can destroy a result so painstakingly sought. The color of the acrylic should match with the adjoining gingival tissues,

color matching should be done in the natural light(fig-2)
The wedge shaped interdental portions of the gum veneer should snap into place with minimum pressure into the interdental spaces. After heat curing, finishing and polishing the acrylic gum veneer is ready to be placed into the patients mouth.(fig-3),(fig-4)

REQUIREMENT FOR A GUM VENEER /PARTY GUMS

1. The need for gum veneer usually arises when there is multiple gingival recession, the esthetics of the patient gets compromised i.e. long teeth exposed dentin.
2. Depending upon the severity of initial periodontitis and edema, therapeutic measures will lead to gingival shrinkage and therefore leading to lengthening of the teeth.
3. Long teeth with their typically dark interdental spaces appearing as black triangles represent the greatest problem, especially in patients with high smile line (short upper lip).

This situation not only compromises phonetics but also esthetics which has become the most important consideration today. These problems can be dealt with means of prosthetics measures and by surgery which is expensive and takes long time to heal, but can also be solved using simple and inexpensive treatments which, unfortunately, usually become "permanent temporary" solutions.

DISCUSSION

The patient with periodontitis, that have multiple gingival recession problem in such cases due to compromised esthetics the most appropriate and inexpensive treatment modality undertaken is the fabrication of an appliance that is the gum veneer.⁸ It completely covers the black holes or triangles that makes the person more presentable and acceptable and thus boosts an immense self confidence in the person which earlier was lacking.(fig-5)

CONCLUSION

The gum veneer is the most simple & inexpensive treatment to improve the esthetics of the patient with multiple gingival recession cases, improving the patients smile and self-confidence and thus effecting the patients physical and mental status.

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CASE-1



Fig. 1 : Long Teeth Effect

Fig. 2 : Acrylic Shade Guide



Fig. 3 : Fabrication of Gum Veneer



Fig. 4 : Placement of Gum Veneer



Fig. 5 : Gum Veneer in place giving appearance like true gingival

CASE-2



Fig. 6 : Long Teeth Effect

Fig. 7 : Esthetic Smile with Gingival Veneer