Accomplish predictable esthetics

How to provide consistent and consistently beautiful results in a 6 unit anterior maxillary case.

As a lab technician, the author struggles with a six unit anterior case, especially when it comes to creating natural-like crowns. Multi-layering the porcelain in order to create beautiful esthetics is hard work!

We will demonstrate how to slightly differ-entently finish their restorations. It requires that we take a little more time to fully contour the porcelain and finish the work, then apply our multi-layering technique for predictable presentation of color. With a solid color wax-up, the author can add and change what he wants to about the case instantly. For predictable results from the wax-up stage to the multi-layering of the porcelain, we will demonstrate the best possible esthetics for your 6 unit cosmetic case.

CASE STUDY

The author created a full-contour wax-up in solid opaque, using Renfert’s 08A brand wax (Fig. A). Looking at the inter-proximal contact, we see that it and the size of the teeth from gingival to incisal area is correct. The laterals and canines had a specific design, and height of contour was also considered. The teeth in this wax-up image appear to be three dimensional with an incisal embrasure. GC PC Pressable ingots in AO and BO are pictured (Fig. B). After pressing, the copings were placed on the die (Fig. C). The author used the AO digit for this case.

When working with the copings and the wax for this case, the author arranged them like this: units 6, 8 and 10 were wax and 7, 9 and 11 were the pressed copings (Fig. D). In this way, he was able to get better contouring before building the crowns. The size of the teeth is much more predictable when the wax and the copings are measurable next to each other.

The author chose his low-fusing GC Initial Porcelain powder colors (Fig. E). He decided to build-up tooth No. 8 based on the contour shape of tooth No. 9 (Fig. F) in order for the author to double check the design and the conclusion.

After the design was complete (Fig. G), the build-up for 6, 8 and 10 was finalized, with contouring to match the adjacent teeth in the wax-up (Fig. H) in order to achieve a predictable shape. Note the incisal translucency on restorations for Nos. 8 and 9 with the white halo effect (Fig. I). Size and contour were also checked on the master cast. All the com-pleted restorations were next placed on the model in order for the author to double check the design and the architecture (Fig. J).

In a side view, the canine is darker in appearance than the central and lateral teeth. This discoloration is natural in effect and mimics genuine dentition (Fig. K). The final contouring illustrates tooth color and size as well as pre-dicts horizontal and vertical lines from canine to canine (Figs. L-Q).

CONCLUSION

As mentioned above, every technician has had a hard time with six-unit anterior makeovers. We have to follow the study model or change the model by doing a wax-up injection and making temporaries out of putty. These techniques are fine, but in the author’s opinion it is very difficult to create the incisal 1/3 and follow it the best esthetics. It’s fairly simple to follow a shade tab color as we create anterior restorations, but for that “wow” effect we have to go a little further with our technique. We have to exercise and learn the best things to do for those high-end results. Only in this way will we be able to provide our clients with the highest-end work.

In a difficult to differentiate ourselves and become better in our technique unless we strive to better ourselves at all times. And still, in order for our efforts to be most effective, they should be put in application.