



ANALYSIS OF THE SMILE
AS PART OF
THE PATIENT'S FACE

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Analysis of the facial features and lip movements in relation to the teeth, achieved by evaluating the facial, dentolabial, and phonetic parameters, is an indispensable first step in prosthetic rehabilitation.

Considerations of the dental and gingival aspects complete the esthetic analysis, providing the treating clinician to make the most appropriate treatment choices in each individual case. Careful evaluations of these parameters allow us to create restorations that are harmonious not only with the smile, but also with the rest of the patient's face. Before focusing attention on the teeth, frontal and lateral examination of the subject, including analysis of the position of the eyes, nose, chin, and lips, allows identification of the reference points and lines that are indispensable for orienting the occlusal plane (plane where teeth come in contact) and the gingival outline in esthetic rehabilitation.

The face and lips form together a dynamic frame for the teeth, with tooth exposure constantly changing during speaking and smiling.

The incisal edge position and the orientation of the incisal plane play vital roles in a successful prosthetic rehabilitation and therefore are among the parameters that should be carefully evaluated.

Finally, it must be remembered that to achieve a predictable satisfactory esthetic result, the temporary restorations are a key element of the treatment planning and must prefigure the final crowns or veneers from an esthetic and functional point of view. Once the patient has confirmed these elements after wearing the temporary restorations for 1 to 2 weeks, the final step of the treatment can be accomplished: realization of the final teeth in porcelain. Advances in technology and biomaterials have dramatically expanded the possibilities for esthetic optimization in restorative dentistry, but if the dentolabial analysis evaluating the relationship between the teeth, lips and lower third of the face has not been achieved the final esthetic result may be disappointing for the patient.

My philosophy is to take one specific appointment just to evaluate these fundamental parameters and to ensure an optimal esthetic outcome.



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