

## What is a veneer?

- ◆ A very thin shell of porcelain or composite (plastic) which is made to fit the front surface of a tooth
- ◆ Similar to a false finger nail.

## Use of veneers

- ◆ Veneers make teeth look natural and healthy
- ◆ Veneers can help to hide broken, chipped or cracked teeth resulting from an accident.
- ◆ Veneers can close gaps between teeth.
- ◆ Veneers can improve the appearance of crooked or misaligned teeth.

## What is the procedure?

Porcelain veneers usually take two visits

### Visit one- preparation

The tooth is prepared and impressions are taken using a putty like material which sets in the mouth. These are

sent to the laboratory for the production of the veneers

### Before veneers



### After veneers



After the time taken for preparation in the dental surgery, the veneer is sent to a highly trained and skilled technician who actually fabricates the veneer. The craft is a unique blend of science and art in order to ensure the correct colour match as well as perfect contour and fit.

### Visit two –fitting

The veneer is fitted using strong bonding agents. Minor adjustments can be made but it is usually best to wait to get used to the change in your mouth.

### Will it hurt?

Local anaesthetic should avoid any discomfort if there is a lot of tooth preparation needed, but usually the preparation is minimal and not deep enough to cause pain – in this case, local anaesthetic will not be needed.

### How long do veneers last?

A veneer may last for many years. They can chip or break just as your own teeth can in function. This can happen one hour after fitting or many years after fitting- therefore no guarantee can be given against

veneers fracture. However this is uncommon.

### **What are the alternatives?**

A natural coloured filling material can be used for minor repairs. This is an excellent way of restoring teeth if the tooth supports the filling but may not work as well for broken tooth corners as they may break off very easily. A join between the filling and tooth will always be noticeable.

In some cases veneers are not used. Where teeth are heavily filled, broken down or have a root canal treatment a crown may be used.

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## **VENEERS**

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