There has been a major movement in dentistry to preserve as much tooth structure as possible, and tooth alignment has become the cosmetic treatment of choice. Short-term orthodontics (STO) for general dentists is a cosmetic solution for adult patients and is a great service we can add to our practices. It is easy, effective and patients want it.

As with any treatment, case selection is paramount in deciding who to treat. It is a useful alternative to traditional treatment options such as crowns and veneers, and it is not only less destructive but also more cost-effective, meaning more patients can access this treatment and achieve fantastic smiles in the space of only six months.

Case presentation
The patient came to us interested in veneers. After an initial consultation, it soon became apparent that placing veneers would have been a very destructive option, as a lot of preparation would have been needed to achieve an ideal cosmetic result.

After we explained the various pros and cons of veneers, the patient asked if there were any other options. Naturally, we then explained that one option is comprehensive orthodontics that would involve 18 to 24 months. We also then described a more cosmetically focused approach, in the form of Six Month Smiles, that would straighten her teeth in about six months.

Having discussed the various merits and drawbacks of each option, the patient opted for Six Month Smiles as the relatively short treatment time was appealing to her, and she only wanted a cosmetic fix, not a functional correction that comprehensive orthodontics would have provided. This case is an excellent example of the “ideal case” for GP short-term orthodontics. The patient’s molar and canine relationships were Class 1 on both sides, with a normal tooth width ratio, upper-to-lower. We weren’t planning any anterior-posterior relationship changes, so this case was perfectly suited for a GP to complete.

After five months, the treatment was completed, and the clear brackets were removed. We then finished the case with tooth whitening to further improve the appearance of the patient’s teeth. I have found that short-term orthodontics on adults can also lead to additional cosmetic work such as whitening or composite bonding to really finish the smile.

At the end of treatment, the patient was absolutely delighted with the results and has, in fact, become a great advocate for our practice! She’s even recommended a number of her friends to come and see us as a result of the treatment, and it’s extremely satisfying to see how much difference this simple yet effective short-term orthodontic system can have.
A dental isolation technique that is unlike anything else

By Isolite Systems Staff

Dental isolation is one of the most common and ongoing challenges in dentistry. The mouth is a difficult environment in which to work. It is wet and dark, the tongue is in the way, and there is the added humidity of breath, which all make dentistry multidisciplinary.

Proper dental isolation and moisture control are two often overlooked factors that can affect the longevity of dental work — especially with today’s advanced techniques and materials.

Leading dental isolation methods have long been the rubber dam — or manual suction and retraction with the aid of cotton rolls and dry angles. Both of these methods are time and labor intensive, and not particularly pleasant for the patient.

Enter Isolite Systems: Its dental isolation systems deliver an isolated, humidity- and moisture-free working field as dry as the rubber dam but with significant advantages, including better visibility, greater access, improved patient safety and a leap forward in comfort. Plus, it allows dentists to work in two quadrants at a time.

The key to the technology is the “Isolation Mouthpiece.” Compatible with Isolite’s full line of products, the mouthpiece is the heart of the system. It is specifically designed and engineered around the anatomy and morphology of the mouth to accommodate every patient, from children to the elderly.

The single-use Isolation Mouthpieces are now available in six sizes and position in seconds to provide complete, comfortable tongue and cheek retraction while also shielding the airway to prevent inadvertent foreign body aspiration.

Constructed out of a polymeric material that is softer than gingival tissue, the mouthpieces provide significant safety advantages, and their ease-of-use can boost your practice’s efficiency, results and patient satisfaction.

Isolite Systems provides three state-of-the-art product solutions for every practice, every operatory: Isolite, illuminated dental isolation system; Isodry, a non-illuminated dental isolation; and the new Isovac, dental isolation adapter.

Using the Isolation Mouthpieces, all three dental isolation products isolate upper and lower quadrants simultaneously while providing continuous hands-free suction. This allows a positive experience where the patient no longer has the sensation of drowning in saliva/water during a procedure and the practitioner can precisely control the amount of suction/humidity in the patient’s mouth.

Isolite Systems’ dental isolation is recommended for the majority of dental procedures where oral control and dental isolation in the working field is desired. It has been favorably reviewed by leading independent evaluators and is recommended for procedures where good isolation is critical to quality dental outcomes.

Visit the Isolite booth, No. 1325, at the Aacd Scientific Session, or go to www.isolitesystem.com.

Aacd power sessions

Learn about the latest in marketing, practice management and implants in these quick-bite power sessions, created to energize and inspire you. Featuring some of Aacd’s most popular educators, these sessions — Internet marketing, implants and practice management — are a perfect addition to your already solid educational lineup.

Go online to www.aacd.com/power sessions for the complete list.

Lab Tech track

Aacd understands the pivotal role laboratory technicians play in achieving an ideal final result. New this year is a special lab focus program, offered in partnership with Spectrum Dialogue.

Team track

Aacd 2015 offers education to bring dental teams together, with topics including whitening, smile design and photography, communication and more.

Practice management track

Being a dentist means you give your patients the smiles of their dreams, but it also means you’re running a business. Learn how to maximize your practice’s profitability and potential with courses designed just for practice owners.
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Vitique is a premium resin cement developed especially to enhance the production of perfect veneers. This high-quality cement offers several innovations unmatched by other veneer cements such as; superior color stability for long-lasting beautiful veneers, consistent ability to reflect the shade of the veneer and facilitate the natural transparency of the tooth; optimum flow characteristics allowing for uncomplicated placement of the thinnest veneer. Vitique’s lack of sensitivity to ambient light allows for relaxed, stress-free placement of multiple veneers. For more information, contact your dental supplier, call 800-662-6383 or visit dmg-america.com. Dental Milestones Guaranteed.

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EyeSpecial C-II: A digital camera designed exclusively for dentistry

By Shofu Dental Corp. Staff

The EyeSpecial C-II digital dental camera is designed exclusively for dentistry and features 12 megapixels and eight shooting modes that are easier, faster and more reproducible to ensure the best quality of images are achieved, according to Shofu Dental Corp.

The EyeSpecial C-II offers a high-performance, 49 mm close-up lens, one-touch operations, an ultralightweight sleek body design and a large LCD touchscreen, which allows the user to view and scroll through images, even with a gloved hand.

Designed to produce superb image quality, according to the company, EyeSpecial C-II has exceptional depth of field range, fast autofocus capabilities, as well as infrared, UV and anti-reflection filters to help achieve those high-quality images.

Although lightweight, the camera is very durable and will withstand the occasional mishandling. It is scratch- and scuff-resistant, as well as water and chemical proof, which is essential for infection control in the office.

Created for dental and orthodontic photography, case presentations and at the bench in a laboratory, EyeSpecial C-II is user friendly and can be held comfortably with one hand, freeing the other to use a cheek retractor or mirror.

Included with the EyeSpecial C-II is a 4 GB SD XC card, but the camera is also compatible with a wireless SD card, such as an Eye-Fi card, allowing images to be automatically transferred and uploaded onto a computer, tablet or smartphone.

The EyeSpecial C-II comes with the 4 GB SD XC card, four AA batteries, a Kenko 49 mm macro lens for close-up shots, a computer connection cord and hand strap, a flash calibration card, a Shofu stylus and a cleaning cloth.

In addition, SureFile photo management software is available for free download. This software will allow the user to automatically sort and file images by patient name or ID number, saving time and improving HIPAA standards.

Shofu’s EyeSpecial C-II is designed exclusively for dentistry, and the company says it can add consistent efficiency to all your dental photography needs.

It is available at www.shofu.com or by contacting Shofu Dental Corp. at (800) 827-4638.