



JOYCE BASSETT, DDS

Private Practice, Scottsdale, Arizona;
Fellow, American Academy of
Cosmetic Dentistry; Fellow,
Academy of General Dentistry



BEFORE

Avoiding Grafting: Gingival Margin Restorations With Enamel Composite

The patient was a 59-year-old man with cosmetic concerns. He had a history of previous orthodontics, and his chief complaint was his upper anterior teeth and receding gums. He did not want gum surgery nor any kind of oral surgery, so an alternative treatment was needed. He had a high smile line on the teeth that would need restoring: his upper cuspids and bicuspid. As with many patients, this patient rejected the ideal treatment plan, which would have included gingival grafting before bonding. Nonetheless, some treatment is often better than no treatment, and, therefore, the patient opted to proceed with a treatment plan of bonding with no grafting, understanding that this plan represented a compromise approach. Informed consent was thus received. The diagnosis was lack of attached gingiva on the upper cuspids and bicuspid, and the “compromise” treatment plan would involve placement of composite resin (Beautiful II Enamel, Shofu, shofu.com) in these gingival margin areas. The clinician blended two shades, HVT (high-value translucent) and LVT (low-value translucent), to achieve natural-looking shade reproduction and provide the patient the esthetic outcome he desired. While the patient’s left central incisor also needed treatment, at this time he wanted just the gingival margins treated and would return the following year for a front tooth crown.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- In cases where patients do not wish or are unable to accept the clinician's suggested treatment, which may require, for example, significant rehabilitation such as grafting, enamel composite may be a viable option for direct esthetic restorations.
- Shofu's Beautifil II Enamel, a bioactive, nanohybrid composite, is available in naturally translucent and opalescent shades that facilitate life-like shade reproduction in the final restoration to meet individual clinical needs.
- Features of Beautifil II Enamel include exceptional handling characteristics with a smooth consistency, long working time for easy sculpting of fine surface details, high abrasion/wear resistance, and excellent polishability and sustained polish retention.



FIG 1.



FIG 2.



FIG 3.



FIG 4.



FIG 5.



FIG 6.

Fig 1. Preoperative, frontal view. The patient's chief concern was the need for restorations at the gingival margins of the upper cuspids and bicuspids, where he had a high smile line. He would address the discolored central incisor at a later time. **Fig 2.** Preoperative, frontal view with contrast. **Fig 3.** Preoperative, right lateral view showing gingival recession at teeth Nos. 5 and 6. **Fig 4.** Preoperative, left lateral view showing gingival recession at teeth Nos. 11 and 12. This was the patient's key area of concern at this time. **Fig 5.** The AI shade tab most closely matched the patient's dentition. **Fig 6.** The clinician used Beautifil II Enamel composite for this direct esthetic restoration because of its excellent blend capabilities, offering a beautiful chameleon effect and the right amount of translucency and opacity to block out the yellow root portion of the tooth. The nanohybrid composite material also offers superb handling.



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Fig 7. The clinician typically chooses the shade before etching and bonding. **Fig 8.** Postoperative, frontal view of the upper cuspid and bicuspid gingival margin restorations. The patient wanted the gingival margins whiter than the clinician would have preferred; however, the color blend is still very nice. The patient plans on having tooth No. 9 restored next year due to financial limitations. **Fig 9.** Postoperative, frontal view with contrast strip. **Fig 10.** Postoperative, right lateral view. **Fig 11.** Postoperative, left lateral view.