

Tanner Jules Gordon

Critical Analysis Paper

Our appearance is very important to us in several different ways. Many of us try to keep up with the latest fashion so we are always looking trendy and in style while others may not particularly care for that at all. Others may try to keep up with their physical appearance and make modifications to their hair, teeth, body, face, etc. Regardless of how you like to present yourself, it is clear that we live in a world where presentation is very important. One aspect of our personal appearance that we have come to take very seriously is our smile but more specifically, our teeth. Our teeth are what helps us have a beautiful smile that people love to see on our face. However, many people do not have that picture-perfect smile because of things such as crooked teeth, overbites, underbites, rotten teeth, and more. As a result, many individuals have started to use veneers which help correct your teeth and give you that smile you always wanted.

Veneers are a thin piece of tooth-shaped porcelain that goes over your real tooth. A very strong adhesive is used in the application process to help ensure it doesn't come out of place and lasts for a long time. They can last anywhere from 10-30 years long but you should still take some precautions to ensure they last for the maximum amount of time. For example, you need to be slightly careful with the things you eat because these false teeth are not indestructible. If too much pressure is placed on the teeth they will shatter since porcelain is glass. The process of getting veneers can take up to 3 weeks because it is a multiple-step procedure. The first step is to get consulted and a wax up which will show you what your end results will look like. The second step is to actually prepare your teeth for the veneers by placing temporary ones. Finally, during the last appointment is when you will have your teeth filled down and have your custom veneers put into place on your teeth. This may sound like a very lengthy procedure to many and may shy certain individuals away but there is also a way to get them quicker. "Thanks to CEREC

(Chairside Economical Restoration of Esthetic Ceramics) technology, it is actually possible for you to have a cosmetic makeover, including veneers, in one day” (Drower, 2021).

Veneers are used for concealing cracks, stains, gaps, chips, and various other imperfections that happen to your teeth. These are some of the main reasons that the majority of people get veneers even though back when veneers were first made they were used to change an actor's smile for a film (Khorsandi, 2021). This goes to show that veneers can be used for different reasons even though at its base, it's to modify one's teeth. Veneers have been around since the 1920s, however, it would seem that in the more recent years they have gained a significant amount of popularity. This is due to the fact that many different athletes, rappers, singers, and social media influencers have gotten them in the past few years. Popular celebrities such as Zac Efron, Miley Cyrus, Tom Cruise, and Cardi B have all gotten this procedure done which in turn leads to many of their followers and supporters to follow suit as well.

When we look at veneers over the years we can see how it has changed and evolved over time from what it originated from. Starting where it first began in the 1920s, Dr. Charles Pincus made veneers that were used to enhance the smiles of celebrities for their films. The reason that this was made only for celebrities at the time is because scientists had not found a way to make it stick or bond to the tooth for a long period of time. They usually were only able to last for a couple of hours which was good enough to shoot necessary scenes. The original design was also made up of acrylic which damaged easily and needed to be replaced often. By the 1930s and 1940s, many dentists realized that not just actors could benefit from this product. Veneers now began to become made of porcelain because they realized when they are made of this material it was less likely to discolor, stain, fracture, or chip. However, there still wasn't a bonding agent strong enough to hold it in place for a long period of time. Finally in the 1950s came along Dr.

Michael Buonocore who introduced etching. He discovered that “applying a mildly acidic solution etched the teeth and created a stronger bonding surface. In addition to bonding porcelain, this technique also benefited sealants and other restorations, including onlays, inlays, and crowns” (Khorsandi, 2021). Now today we can see that veneers have evolved into a very strong false tooth that is not only durable but can last up to several years. This only paving the way for even stronger cosmetic enhancements in the upcoming years.

Veneers have become such a popular thing and truly changed the way so many people view teeth adjustments. Looking back through time we see that people use to do many different procedures to try and get those picture-perfect teeth. One of the most historically significant forms of teeth straightening is braces which to this day is still a very popular way people choose to align their teeth. Metal braces, ceramic braces, and damon braces are all common types of braces that people would have put on their teeth. Traditional braces work by “ exerting constant pressure on teeth and jaws to change their position and alter the smile. The brackets glued to the teeth hold the archwire in place which places pressure on the teeth. Over time teeth move into the desired position” (Treatments & Care, 2020). Other ways individuals would try and align or fix their teeth would be with clear alignments (such as Invisalign), retainers, dentures, or even dental bonding. We have no come to an age where we no longer have to wear braces for years and put in a retainer for the rest of life. Installing veneers is a fairly easy and straightforward process that allows many people to achieve that radiant and joyful smile that we all want.

Bibliography

10 teeth straightening options to improve your smile - carecredit. (n.d.). Retrieved October 23, 2022, from <https://www.carecredit.com/well-u/health-wellness/teeth-straightening-options/>

6, P. S. (n.d.). *How long does it take to get veneers fitted?* Montane Dental Care. Retrieved October 23, 2022, from <https://www.montanedentalcare.com/blog/how-long-does-it-take-to-get-veneers-fitted>

Can I get veneers in one day? Sean P. Drower, DMD PC. (n.d.). Retrieved October 23, 2022, from <https://www.drdrower.com/faq/get-veneers/5236>

David, D. D. (2016, November 27). *The benefits of having a beautiful smile.* Dental Wellness Phoenixville. Retrieved October 23, 2022, from <https://padentalwellness.com/cosmetic-dentistry/the-benefits-of-having-a-beautiful-smile/>

History of braces: Smiles change lives. Smiles Change Lives | bracing kids for a better future. (2014, June 23). Retrieved October 23, 2022, from <https://smileschangelives.org/history-of-braces/>

History of veneers – how they have changed overtime. Byte®. (n.d.). Retrieved October 23, 2022, from <https://www.byte.com/community/resources/article/history-of-veneers-how-they-have-changed/>

Veneers: What are dental veneers? cost, procedure & advantages. Cleveland Clinic. (n.d.). Retrieved October 23, 2022, from <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/treatments/23522-dental-veneers>

WebMD. (2020, July 20). *Dental veneers: Porcelain Veneer uses, procedure, and more.* WebMD. Retrieved October 23, 2022, from <https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/guide/veneers#1>