

Non-vital bleaching restores a smile's natural look where external bleaching methods can't and more expensive alternatives are complicated.



Patient Profile

Patient: A 22-year-old female

Symptoms: The patient came to us with a discolored front tooth, sustained when she fell off her bike when she was 15 years old.

Initial assessment: The tooth was killed in the trauma the patient suffered when she fell. We determined she needed root canal treatment and non-vital bleaching.

Treatment Protocol

Both root canal treatment and non-vital bleaching were performed at the same visit. We used internal bleaching medication to restore the tooth's natural color without necessitating a crown. Because of the cause of the discoloration, external bleaching methods designed to whiten surface stains on the outer layer of tooth enamel would not be effective.

With internal bleaching, we begin with an X-ray of the teeth to determine whether root canal or other treatment may also be required. Next, we drill a small hole into the back of the tooth; no injections are required. The hole is packed with bleaching material and closed with a temporary filling. The entire procedure thus far has taken just 15 minutes.

Case Studies in Endodontics

Treatment Outcome

The tooth's color was restored, safely and beautifully, in one week. While some cases require an additional week of treatment, this patient's results were complete in one. We removed the bleaching material and replaced the temporary filling with a permanent white resin filling to cover the hole in the back of the tooth. The color matched the patient's other front teeth, so the result was completely natural looking.

Conclusion

A safe and predictable solution was provided for a discolored tooth, and we saved the patient the time and expense of a dental implant or crown. The patient loved how easy and simple the treatment was for her. Her dentist was happy not to have to build a crown that would likely not match the adjacent teeth's color and not sit properly on the gingiva.

Discussion

Non-vital bleaching offers a variety of advantages to the patient. For starters, it is fast, easy and inexpensive – especially when compared with its alternatives: bonding, veneers and crowns. All of these techniques can be difficult to do for just one tooth at a time; plus, a dark tooth often shows through bonding and veneers. Non-vital bleaching can usually be completed in two very short visits, making it both convenient and affordable.

For questions or further discussion of the findings in this case study – or to refer a patient to Endodontic Specialists, call (610) 995-0109 or (610) 917-9984.



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