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Summer 2009

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INVISALIGN

By Dr. Dan Hagi



The emergence of cosmetic dentistry in the mainstream has resulted in an onslaught of information about new and exciting technologies, products and procedures designed to improve your smile and appearance. Challenges emerge when it comes to select-

ing a combination of the right technology, the right product and the right procedure for your specific needs. Every mouth is different, every smile is unique and every patient's goals are individual. One size definitely doesn't fit all!

When it comes to braces today, there are several options available. The first option is the use of metallic braces, and a second option is the use of transparent plastic braces, commonly referred to as "Invisalign". In some cases, a combination of both can be used, depending on the individual needs of the patient.

Lets be honest, physical first impression is probably the most important opinion we establish about any particular person. First impressions often are based on the appearance of a persons face, mouth and teeth. People with crooked, gapped or rotated teeth are often misjudged on appearance, and other characteristics such as intelligence and personality. Over the years, many become self-conscious and apprehensive about their smile and may even be uncomfortable smiling and laughing in public. The solution may be easier than we think. Invisalign is a new orthodontic treatment system that works to straighten teeth through the use of a series of clear plastic molds (aligners). Invisalign braces eliminate the metallic smile that is characteris-tic of traditional braces.

In 1997 Align Technology was founded to provide a safe, effective technique that allows you to go through teeth-straightening treatment procedures without anyone noticing.

The technology behind Invisalign has been

available for decades. But in the beginning manual production methods and expensive fabrication of plastic aligners made it almost impractical for many. It wasn't until more recently, and with the introduction of sophisticated computer aided design and industrial automation processes that this amazing technology has become truly widely available. The main reason for that lies in the complex technologies that were needed to be developed and perfected over many years in order to achieve high degrees of accuracy, speed and reliability in the computer-aided production process of the intricate plastic aligners. Today, Invisalign works using a 3-Dimensional computer imaging system, which models a complete treatment plan for the patient starting with the initial position of the teeth to the final desired position. A series of custom-made aligners are milled out by a robotic a CNC (Computer Numerical Control) process using the 3-D modeling data. Each fabricated aligner moves the teeth incrementally over about a two week period. After approximately two weeks, the aligner is replaced with the next one in the series, and so on, until the final positioning of the teeth is achieved. The concept is simply applying incremental changes or movements by utilizing a series of custom made plastic aligners pressing directly on the teeth rather than a series of wires pressing against brackets to transfer pressure to the teeth over time. The biomechanical principals remain the same; the applied biomechanics are simply a little different. In other words, as far as the teeth are concerned, aligners work the same way braces do. The aligners are nearly invisible (hence the name Invisalign) and are made of strong, clear medical grade plastic.

Invisalign patients also benefit because the aligners are removable. This means that you can eat or drink what you like during treatment. There aren't any difficulties biting into a hard apple for example, something that is definitely not recommended with traditional metal braces! You can

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brush and floss your teeth as normal so oral hygiene is not as challenging as it is with typical braces. Invisalign is also comfortable for the gums and lips with no metal and wires. Another benefit is the patient can view their treatment process and how their teeth will look before treatment even begins.



Invisalign offers a number of benefits for orthodontic patients and is comparable in price to traditional braces. Expect an investment of as little as \$3500 to as much as \$6000 to achieve your desired smile, depending on the length of treatment and complexity. Talk to your dentist to see if Invisalign may be an appropriate treatment to elevate your smile.



The photos on left side are before and after on the right side of page



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ting out of the water. Apply a small amount to the hair and comb through for even distribution. Then there's a spray called Advanced Protection Conditioning Spray. This is more like a sun screen for the hair. The other products help with the repair and condition of the hair while this spray will form a protective barrier around the hair fiber. This is easy to use and carry with you. When you're going to be in the sun for a longer period of time, just spray. If you're looking for a product that will give you protection while keeping the integrity of the hair fiber, then this range will help.



So after a day on the golf course, driving in the new convertible, or a day in the water, these products will help nourish and replenish the hair while protecting against the elements, giving the hair maximum strength, shine and softness.

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