## AESTHETICS

## Using Opalescent Light Filters in Restoring Teeth

By Lorin Berland, DDS

he addition of opalescent light filters to porcelain has added a new dimension to cosmic dentistry. It is now easier than ever to match opercelain veners with

porcelain veneers with crowns, mask several different colors, and conservatively restore traumatically induced endodontically treated teeth.

It is not uncommon to see patients for years who are oblivious to their obvious need for cosmetic dentistry. Something suddenly happens, and they want immediate treatment. We never sell dentistry. We merely offer the finest service we can besides, why rush? As dentistry constantly improves, our service always gets betier.

This person in his late 30s had been my patient for nore than five years. Alhough his smile was far rom perfect, he was content, and did not desire any hange. All efforts by his wife ailed to convince him that ie needed any smile nhancement. It was only then his daughter had her races removed that he egan to see room for mprovement. When she sentioned that he should do omething about his front eth, that clinched it.

He had suffered a comtion basketball injury 20 cars ago—an elbow to the see. As a result, tooth No. 9 squired endodontic therapy, was restored with a oneiece cast post and crown, be patient recalls it as a corrible experience." He members vividly the dend "drilling the tooth down a stub, and then driving a tke through it."

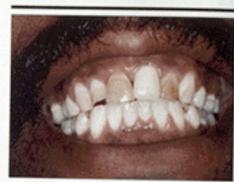
This was the real reason was always reluctant to

consider any cosmetic treatment. He assumed it required more crowns. Root canal treatment was fine as long as he did not need any more posts and crowns. Fifteen years ago, tooth No.10 flared up while he was in the service, and a root canal was performed. Although the gutta percha fill appears short, it was asymptomatic. Tooth No. 7 is incisally fractured. A swelling appeared last year apical to tooth No. 8, and endo was

The teeth have looked this way for 20 years (Fig. 1). What we have is four teeth and four different colors.

Three have had endo, and one was crowned. New crowns, and post and cores on teeth Nos. 8, 9 and 10, and a porcelain veneer on tooth No. 7 was a viable option. The patient, however, definitely did not want to repeat his experience of 20 years ago times four. Also, I have always had reservations about crowning perfectly sound, yet endodontically treated, anterior teeth (Fig.2). Probably anyone in practice for more than 10 years has seen that crown on an endodontically treated incisor break off at the gumline at the worst time.

This fracture is at least partly due to the circumfer-ential reduction necessary for a crown on an already weakened tooth. A post and core must be used to prevent this. This also increases the probability of tooth loss due to vertical or horizontal fractures. Porcelain veneers are the more conservative solution. Because the aim is to mask the there different colors on teeth



Flo. I







Fig. 4



Pa.5



Plu 6