

Editorial-2

Embrasures are the Smile Genes

Our ultimate goal, as clinicians, is to achieve pleasing composition in the smile by creating an arrangement of various esthetic elements. Harmonizing an esthetics smile requires a perfect integration of facial composition and dental composition.¹ Though principally, the smile design refers to the 'tooth' as a basic component, the role of embrasures cannot be overlooked. A small change in the embrasure affects the smile more considerably than the same change in tooth anatomy. The white (teeth) and red (gingiva and soft tissues) zones both are essential components in smile designing.² Tooth components entitled dental midline, incisal lengths, tooth dimensions, zenith points, axial inclinations, interdental contact area, incisal embrasure, sex, personality, age, symmetry and balance. Soft tissue components are gingival health, levels, harmony, embrasure, smile line.²



All these components are interdependent. The incisal, facial and gingival embrasures are the most vital components that decide the elegance of the beautiful smile. Tooth is a filler component embedded in the matrix of these embrasures to create a composite of the beautiful smile. The position of upper and lower anterior teeth are so critical that an error of less than a millimeter in incisal edge location can feel grotesque to some patients.³ Similarly the tooth display, lip mobility, position of the incisal edge with adjacent teeth, incisal guidance, smile arc and the horizontal position of the incisal edges are other important smile parameters.⁴ If the clinician concentrate on the embrasures (incisal, gingival and facial), all above- mentioned factors will be inherently taken care of. Hence if we set the 'embrasure esthetics' as a starting point during smile-designing, the all micro-requirements of it would be automatically fulfilled. Hence I can say, embrasures are the smile genes.

This very last issue of the year includes a review paper on the zirconia application as a denture base material. The research articles are highlighting the efficacy of commonly available denture adhesive materials and effect of air abrasion on titanium castings. The survey of prosthodontic and periodontal status in urban-poor from Philippines has been included. Rehabilitation of ocular defect, with a stock prosthesis and a fixed dental prosthesis, with ovate pontic are the two interesting case reports filled up in the issue.

I thank all the reviewers and associate editors to work hard for publishing four issues of the year 2013 in time with a substantial scientific literature. Without your assistance, this would not have been possible at all.

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