

COURAGE

By Kevin M. Brown, DDS, AAACD

The patient on the cover of this issue of the *JCD* is an example of courage. A single mother, she works hard to provide for her daughter and herself. A difficult and stressful period in her life had contributed to an acute phase of generalized dental attrition and erosion and as a result, her once brilliant, confident smile had instead become a stumbling block to her self-esteem. In her profession, she works with many clients who are trying to improve their own physical appearance; in an environment like this it can be very easy to magnify any self-perceived flaws.

Wanting to fix her smile, she did some research and asked several dental professionals for their opinions but was given only treatment plans that included indirect porcelain restorations. She understood the justification for this treatment option but the cost was out of reach for her. She felt as though she would be stuck forever with her worn-looking, unesthetic smile. One day, however, she saw a book that illustrated the capabilities of dental composites in the smile zone and she realized that there was an affordable way to get her smile back. Exercising a little bit of faith and a lot of courage, she took the necessary steps to restore her smile and reinvigorate her confidence.

Although these direct composite restorations are not a permanent solution, they have provided a small miracle in her life and will last many years until she can transition to a definitive indirect porcelain rehabilitation.

To learn more about this patient's treatment, turn to the Clinical Cover Case on page 28.

Cover and editorial images: Photographer, Kali Leenstra (Seattle, WA); Make-up Artist, Dawn Padgett (Seattle, WA). Cover and editorial images taken with a Canon 5d Mark III (Canon USA; Melville, NY). The Behind the Smile image on the next page was taken with a Contax 645 (Kyocera; Kyoto, Japan).

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