



Venetian Pointe Dentistry

A Newsletter Prepared by Richard C. Rampi, DMD

WINTER 2007

Sapphire: Professional Whitening

As a dental practice, we at Venetian Pointe Dentistry aspire to offer services which are safe, well-tolerated, effective, and are perceived to be an exceptional value on the part of our patients. In addition to offering general dentistry services, we enjoy providing services related to cosmetic dentistry. Teeth whitening, porcelain veneers, Invisalign, and one-visit porcelain inlays and onlays are examples of cosmetic dentistry procedures which we provide.

Of all the cosmetic dentistry procedures that we offer, teeth whitening services are those most commonly performed. These services for smile enhancement have been popular for very many years. As a result, many different systems for teeth bleaching have become available. As a practice, it is our duty to ascertain which ones will be most efficacious for our patients.

During the past couple of years, we have worked extensively with a company called Den-Mat in the fabrication of porcelain veneers and all-porcelain crowns. In addition to formulating Cerinate porcelain which is used in the fabrication of Lumineer restorations, this company has developed many products used in dentistry such as bonding materials and their own bleaching system. The one they've developed is called Sapphire; this system of teeth whitening we feel has been met with the greatest patient satisfaction to-date. The purpose of the feature article of this newsletter

is to provide information related to this system of teeth whitening.

The Sapphire plasma arc light (shown below) is breakthrough technology which is "the cornerstone" of the Sapphire Whitening



System. This power train forms a coherent beam of light which, along with Den-Mat's patented Whitening Crystal, gently illuminates teeth during the bleaching procedure. This is in contrast to other lights which emit ultra-violet radiation that generate heat in addition to the release of UV

radiation. The minimal heat released by the Sapphire bleaching light is the key in providing the service in a comfortable fashion.

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Lumineers; New Guidelines for Antibiotic Premedication; "This and That"; and "From the Doctor's Desk".

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The plasma arc light is used in conjunction with the Sapphire Chairside Whitening Gel. The whitening gel used with the Sapphire System is 35% hydrogen peroxide. Because of the high concentration of hydrogen peroxide, it is imperative that the soft tissues of the mouth be protected during the whitening procedure. For this reason, the gum tissues, lips, cheeks, and other soft tissues are carefully covered with a barrier of plastic, cotton, and a light-cured polymer.

For patients who desire and/or need only minor whitening, we feel one visit with Sapphire is perfectly adequate in providing this result. However, for patients who desire a significant color change, more than one application is likely needed or follow-up at home is required with custom-fit bleaching trays. Nonetheless, "jump starting" the bleaching process in the office followed by one week of home bleaching typically will provide a result comparable with 3 – 4 weeks of home bleaching without the in-office jump start.

For someone who wants the best whitening result with the least amount of effort, there's no question that the procedure must at least begin with in-office bleaching. Whether this one visit of in-office bleaching is enough or if additional in-office bleaching sessions or home bleaching efforts are required depend upon the desired result and how responsive the teeth are to the bleaching procedure. How well the patient tolerates the process may be a limiting factor.

In addition to Sapphire, our office also offers Zoom2 and Nite White. However, for the reasons listed, currently our favored choice is Sapphire. The present fee for Sapphire ranges from \$350 (for one in-office bleaching) to \$500 (which includes the in-office jump start and the at-home follow-up kit). These fees are subject to change but will be honored at least until April of 2008. If you or someone you know desires teeth whitening, please call for an appointment for consultation or be sure to mention this at the time of your next office visit.

LUMINEERS

As mentioned in the article on Sapphire, the company who has developed the Sapphire Whitening System is the same maker of Cerinate porcelain. Cerinate porcelain is the super strong porcelain that is used in the fabrication of Lumineer veneers and crowns. Lumineers are porcelain veneers fabricated using Cerinate porcelain. Lumineers are bonded to the front surfaces of teeth. Some of the useful applications for this service include the following:

- tooth discoloration;
- closing noticeable gaps;
- eliminating permanent stains;
- restoring broken or misshapen teeth;
- lengthening short teeth; and
- bonding to existing crowns and bridgework without having to replace them.

Since the material is "contact-lens-thin", the veneers allow for the preservation of tooth structure often without the use of a local anesthetic (no injection), no need for tooth preparation (no drilling), no temporaries, and no need for the removal of sensitive tooth structure.

For further information, please contact our office, Cerinate's customer service department at 1-800-972-1236, or visit their website at www.cerinate.com.

Source: "Lumineers by Cerinate". Den-Mat Corporation. 821212300 12/04PAC.

NEW GUIDELINES FOR ANTIBIOTIC PREMEDICATION

In April of 2007, the American Heart Association published new guidelines related to prophylactic premedication with antibiotics prior to dental procedures. Significantly, prophylactic antibiotics are no longer needed for people with mitral valve prolapse. This has been a common reason why patients have premedicated in the past. According to the new guidelines, other heart conditions which no longer require prophylactic antibiotics include: rheumatic heart disease, bicuspid