



‘No prep, no shots, no pain’

“No prep, no shots, no pain.” These words are exactly what patients would love to hear when they are considering porcelain veneer treatment. While I usually prefer to do some teeth preparation, I have discovered that some no-prep cases can result in optimal gingival health and beautiful, natural-looking esthetics.

My experience with Glidewell Laboratories’ Prisma[™] ThinPress Ceramic has changed my view on no-prep cases. This preblended, extra-high-strength, lucite-reinforced ceramic is ideal for thermopressing ultra-thin (0.3 mm) ceramic veneers. This ceramic works great for consistently pressing veneers on cases that have little to no tooth preparation.

No-prep veneers like ThinPress work well for “additive” type esthetic cases. These include cases where multiple diastemata are present, when teeth are shorter than they used to be due to trauma or wear, and where there has been a loss of facial enamel volume. Also, in some cases where the only goal is the “permanent bleaching” effect, no-prep veneers may be the best option.

Figure 1 is a preoperative shot of a 30-year-old male patient with multiple diastemata who wanted to close the spaces between his teeth but was not concerned with fixing his incorrect midline. However, the patient had a fear of shots or invasive procedures.



Figure 1

Figure 2 shows the .3 mm Prisma[™] ThinPress veneers tried into place. The patient was ecstatic with how his new smile would look, and the veneers were bonded into place in less than 45 minutes.

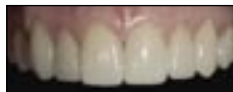


Figure 2

Figure 3 also had multiple diastemata and several teeth that were overinclined to the lingual. This woman had experienced postoperative sensitivity to a crown placed several years earlier, and was hoping not to



Figure 3

have to remove much tooth structure. Figure 4 shows the Prisma[™] ThinPress veneers at try-in. Again, the patient was amazed by the immediate improvement in esthetics. The 10 veneers were cleaned and bonded into place in less than one hour.



Figure 4

Normally, I prefer to prepare the teeth somewhat in veneer cases. Prisma[™] ThinPress also works extremely well in these minimal-prep situations. I find there are

certain advantages to prepping teeth. Many times when teeth are not prepped, veneers can exhibit overcontoured margins or the veneers will appear bulky in the mouth. When you prepare the teeth, you also retain control of a number of factors that can ruin a case if left unattended. Advantages of doing minimal teeth preparation include:

- Contour factors (emergence profile, facial profile, incisal third)
- Color change without overbulking the ceramic
- Margin placement for concealment
- Provides definitive margin for technician to work with
- Allows correction of greater misalignment

If a dentist decides to go ahead with a no-prep case, I believe it is very important to have written, informed consent from the patient. No-prep cases using Prisma[™] ThinPress can produce great, natural-looking esthetics. However, it's important that patients know their options for veneer treatment. I like to talk with a patient about any potential downside, as mentioned above, that could be involved in a no-prep case. Once a patient is informed and agrees to proceed with no-prep veneers, a dentist can proceed with confidence.

As always, when doing a veneer try-in, be careful not to push patients toward accepting veneers if they seem unsure. A dentist wants to make sure patients love their veneers before they are bonded into place. This type of treatment isn't “reversible” without damage to the teeth. I have used my Waterlase YSGG laser from Biolase to remove no-prep veneers without damage to a patient's teeth. However, many dentists have yet to incorporate this technology. So, be sure that a patient is happy with the veneers while they are still filled with try-in paste.

As mentioned earlier, I did not believe that quality, esthetically pleasing restorative veneers could be achieved without preparing the teeth. However, after doing a no-prep case using Prisma[™] ThinPress, I now believe no-prep veneers can be a great option for certain patients.

DE

Dr. Michael DiTolla is director of clinical research and education at Glidewell Labs in Newport Beach, Calif., where he also teaches over-the-shoulder courses on topics such as esthetic restorative dentistry. Dr. DiTolla also teaches a two-day, live-patient, hands-on laser-training course that emphasizes diode and erbium lasers. In addition, he teaches a two-day, hands-on digital photography course emphasizing intraoral and portrait photography, and image manipulation. More information on these and other courses can be found by email at mcditolla@mac.com or by calling (888) 535-1289.