

Changing the Face of Cosmetic Dentistry

Jamie Fain was self-conscious about his smile. “I had to have two root canals performed on the upper left side of my mouth,” confides the financial analyst and father of two, “and ever since then, whenever I smiled, and I smile a lot, I would think about those teeth.

“Finally I decided to discuss it with Dr. Brown.”

Clark F. Brown, Jr., DDS, is a comprehensively trained and experienced dentist who has practiced cosmetic, general, and implant dentistry in Melbourne for more than twenty-eight years.

“I’ve been a patient of Dr. Brown’s for quite some time now, and at every appointment I noticed the small display he has in his office describing a specific type of porcelain veneer called Lumineers,” remembers Jamie. “I decided I wanted to know more about them, so I asked Dr. Brown.”

About Lumineers

“Lumineers by Cerinate are ultrathin, permanent smile enhancers that can transform misshapen, discolored, and crooked teeth into a naturally beautiful smile while strengthening natural tooth structure,” describes Dr. Brown. “Den-Mat Corporation, one of the largest manufacturers of professional dental materials, has developed an extraordinarily strong porcelain that is beautifully translucent and can be made into shells as thin as contact lenses. Because Lumineers are so thin, they can usually be secured to the top of teeth without having to reduce any sensitive tooth structure, which means placement can be accomplished without shots, anesthetic, or pain.” Traditionally, the placement of veneers involves reduction of natural tooth structure to accommodate them on the fronts of the teeth. This can require the use of numbing shots or anesthetic.

“Lumineers are a viable alternative to braces and can restore and strengthen teeth,” informs Dr. Brown, “and the impressive feature about their translucency is how naturally they reflect light.

“Because the enamel of natural teeth is fairly translucent, they pick up a lot of their color from the dentin, or tissue that lies under the enamel and forms the main structure of the tooth. Because we can custom shade the bonding we use to secure the luminous porcelain facings, we can create a near-perfect match to our patient’s teeth by using a

CLARK F. BROWN, JR., DDS, P.A.



Clark F. Brown, Jr., DDS, is board certified by the American Board of Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of California, San Diego, and his doctor of dental surgery degree from Georgetown University. Dr. Brown served as a dentist in the U.S. Air Force from 1978 to 1981. He has been in private practice in Melbourne since 1981. He is a diplomate of the American Board of

Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry, International Congress of Oral Implantologists, American Society of Osseointegration, and American College of Forensic Examiners and is a fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry and International Congress of Oral Implantologists.

translucent Lumineer. Additionally, because the light moves through the porcelain and bounces back, it has a dynamic life and luster, just like a natural tooth.”

According to Dr. Brown, Lumineers can brighten a smile, fill in gaps between teeth, perfect slightly rotated teeth, transform stained or discolored teeth, and correct teeth that are chipped.

“If my patient’s tooth is chipped, I may want to smooth out those little rough edges before securing the Lumineer,” says Dr. Brown, “but I wouldn’t be cutting down the tooth. Or if a patient’s tooth is rotated and our goal is to

like coffee, tea, red wine, grape juice, and dark fruits like blueberries and blackberries can darken the teeth.”

Indications may include superficial stains, penetrating and absorbed stains, color change related to pulpal trauma and necrosis, interproximal (space in between two adjacent teeth) discolorations, tetracycline stains, and naturally occurring yellow teeth, among others.

“Zoom! works by using a halogen light to activate the whitening agent,” explains Dr. Brown. “During this procedure, teeth are isolated from the gum tissue and

Because a smile is the focal point of the face, cosmetic dentistry is often the centerpiece of facial rejuvenation. Lumineers can be its keynote.

straighten it, I may want to flare it back slightly so that when the porcelain facing is secured I don’t have to apply the bonding more thickly in one area.

“And sometimes we will do some minor contouring, but it will be minimal, perhaps half a millimeter, and it will not require shots. None of the sensitive tooth structure will be removed.

“The key is to do whatever it takes to produce the best results possible.”

For Jamie, that process would include using white composite fillings to replace some old silver fillings that had started to break down, placing all-porcelain crowns over the two teeth that had darkened from the root canals, and applying six Lumineers across his upper front teeth.

But before placing Jamie’s Lumineers, Dr. Brown used a whitening system called Zoom! to brighten his teeth.

Whitening

“Jamie did have some tooth discoloration, which can originate from various factors,” educates the doctor. “Teeth normally get darker as we age, and along with the normal aging process substances

the lips. A powerful whitening gel is then carefully applied.

“While the patient watches television or listens to music, the light is activated and the procedure begins,” explains the doctor. “The entire treatment time is only about an hour.

“We direct the beam of halogen light on the teeth for fifteen minutes, and then remove the residual gel, clean the teeth, and evaluate the level of whiteness we have so far attained. After confirming that our patient is still

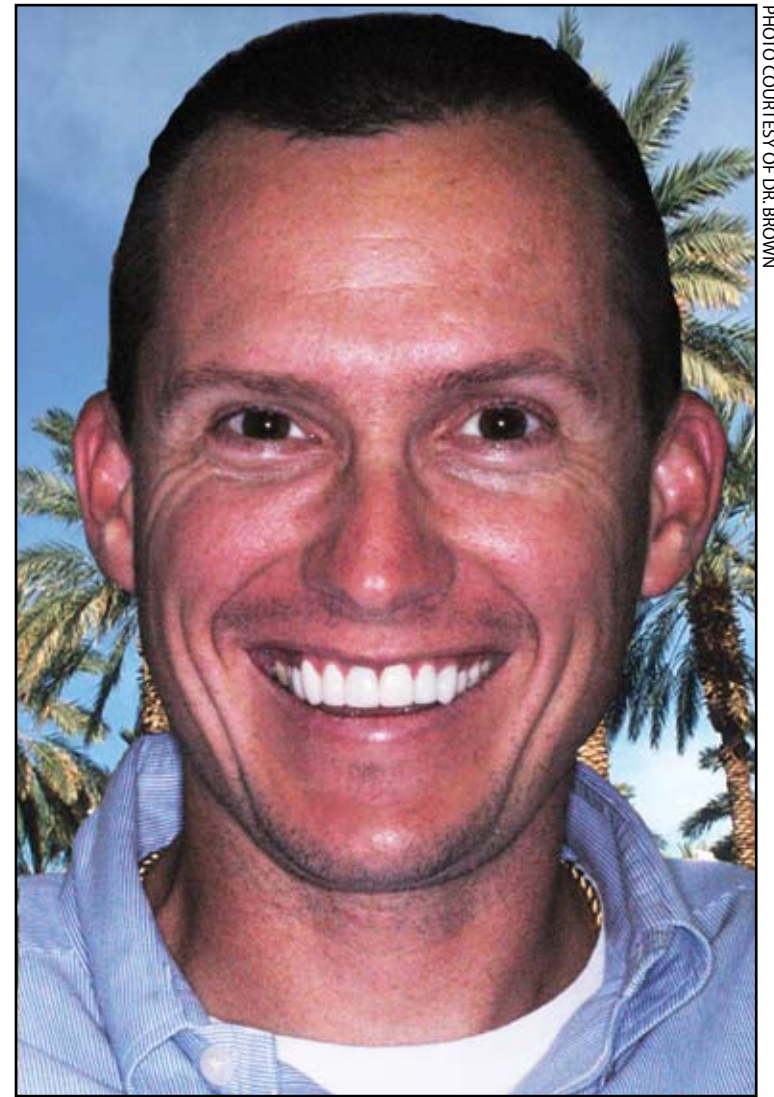


PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. BROWN

Jamie, a self-described sports enthusiast, says his new smile gave him a lot of self-confidence.

comfortable, we apply another layer of the whitening agent and go through the process two to three more times, depending on the desired results.”

“The difficult part for me was deciding exactly what shade I wanted to go with,” recalls Jamie. “Dr. Brown’s staff, which is excellent, worked with me to help me decide. They made the entire process simple and easy.”

Once Jamie’s teeth were whitened, Dr. Brown waited approximately a week before placing the crowns and applying his Lumineers.

“Typically what happens is that when we first bleach, the teeth get very, very white, and then there is a small amount of rebound,” says Dr. Brown. “The whitening process causes a slight dehydration which makes the teeth look even

lighter. Within a week they will re-hydrate and the color will stabilize to the chosen shade.”

Self-esteem boost

Jamie also chose the shape for his new Lumineers.

“I have a couple of somewhat pointed teeth,” describes Jamie. “I could have had them flattened out, but instead I chose to stay with my natural look.

“Several friends and associates have complimented me on my new smile and I’m not so self-conscious about it anymore. My new smile has definitely given me a lot more confidence.”

FHCN—Kris Kline

Here for you...

Dr. Brown looks forward to meeting the readers of Brevard Health Care News. For additional information or to schedule an appointment, please call (321) 259-9429. The office is located at 2113 Sarno Rd. in Melbourne.

For more information, please visit www.drimplant.com.

“Technology now allows us to replace missing teeth with titanium implants, zirconia abutments, and all-porcelain crowns and fixed bridges,” announces Dr. Brown.

An implant replaces the root of a missing tooth. The zirconia abutment acts as a tooth that has been prepared to receive a crown. Zirconia is a white mineral, which is extremely hard and durable.

SUBTLETIES CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

In the past, all abutments were metal, as were the bases to most crowns and fixed bridges. “Crowns and bridges made from porcelain fused to metal (PFM), which have long dominated the dental field, can show a dark line around the restoration if the gum recedes,” observes the doctor. “This is especially noticeable when the affected tooth is

toward the front of the mouth in what we call the aesthetic zone. All porcelain crowns and bridges have a better color and translucency than PFM restorations because light can pass through and illuminate the underlying tooth or abutment. With PFM restorations, the dark color of the metal has to be opaqued and no light can reflect through.

“Thanks to this new technology, crowns and bridges will maintain their natural appearance even if the gums begin to recede.”