

Maximizing Anterior Aesthetics with Various Orthodontic Treatments

Dr. Cheol Ho Paik

Most patients visit orthodontic clinics to enhance the aesthetics of their upper anterior teeth. However, simply straightening the anterior teeth may not satisfy all aspects of aesthetics. This is because the 3D position or angulation of the anterior teeth and the surrounding alveolar bone relative to the entire facial skeleton is critical for anterior aesthetics. Not only does this macro aspect of aesthetics matter, but the micro aspect of each anterior tooth also influences anterior aesthetics. In this presentation, I will demonstrate various approaches to maximize anterior aesthetics from both macro and micro perspectives.

Firstly, I will introduce anterior aesthetics from a macro perspective. Both domestically and abroad, numerous hardwares and softwares have been developed to provide digital solutions, which can locate the upper dentition in the face through aesthetic analysis and planning. Until now, these digital solutions have focused on prosthodontic demands since orthodontic movement of the anterior teeth to desirable positions is often limited, especially vertical movements such as intrusion and extrusion of anterior teeth. We know that when the occlusal plane becomes steeper, the smile line becomes more harmonious with lower lip line. However, changing the occlusal plane angle without jaw surgery was quite challenging in the past. Recently, with the orthopedic treatment of growing patients and adults and the use of orthodontic mini-screw implants, we can change the antero-posterior or vertical position of the upper anterior teeth as well as the steepness of the occlusal plane angle to some extent. In terms of the micro perspective, anterior aesthetics are influenced by the size of the anterior teeth, the height of the crown, the height/width ratio, and the morphology of the teeth. Various orthodontic treatments can be utilized based on the macro and micro esthetic perspectives to achieve optimal anterior teeth aesthetics for our patients.

Profile

- * Private practice, SAI Orthodontic Clinic, Seoul, Korea
- * Clinical faculty, Dept. of Orthodontics of Seoul National University (SNU)
- * Regular member of Southern California component of Angle Society
- * Visited UCLA and UCSF as a visiting faculty of Dept. of Orthodontics, USA
- * Received Orthodontic Training and PhD course in Dept. of Orthodontics, Dental College of Tsurumi University, Yokohama, Japan
- * Graduated Seoul National University (SNU) Dental College, Seoul, Korea