

# LEFE

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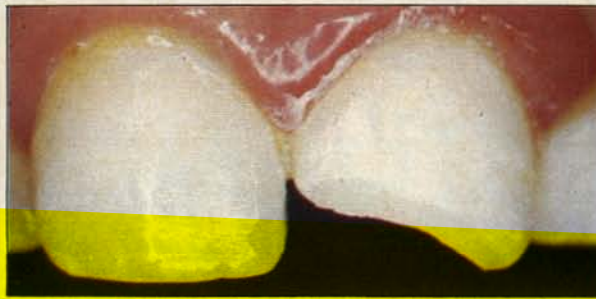
# GOSMETIC PROCEDURE

## The Road to a Brighter Smile

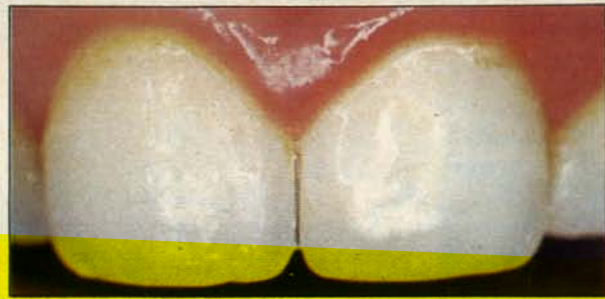
Lets's assume your teeth are basically sound. No major malocclusions, no threat of disease. But your teeth are badly stained, possibly from some medication you were given as a child. Or your smile reveals chipped or fractured teeth, a narrow gap between two front teeth or some defect in the enamel, the hard outer covering of teeth.

Dentists traditionally treat a broken or defective tooth by fitting it with a crown—a jacket or cap made of metal, porcelain or plastic that is placed over the tooth, which the dentist has reduced in size in order to receive the crown.

Though crowns are still recommended in certain cases, your



The tooth above (a central incisor) has been badly fractured.



Same tooth as shown (left) has been restored with use of a composite resin.

dentist may suggest a technique popularly known as bonding—a quick, simple, less expensive means of correcting tooth defects.

*"Bonding has revolutionized cosmetic dentistry," states Atlanta dentist Ronald Goldstein, author of Esthetics In Dentistry. "It has*

*enabled dentists to turn unsightly smiles into beautiful ones with minimum time, effort and expense."*

Through the bonding process, tooth-colored plastic materials called composite resins are layered over problem teeth that have been lightly swabbed with a mild acid so-

lution that makes them more porous and better able to accept the bond. The restructured tooth is then contoured and polished, and the patient is left with an eye-pleasing smile improvement that usually is accomplished without anesthetics or drilling.

(Photographs and treatment by Dr. Richard Simonsen, Department of Restorative Dentistry, University of Connecticut).