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Qu:

“The perfect smile”

We all know that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Nevertheless, we always try to establish rules and guidelines when analyzing and describing the appearance of our patients during our initial diagnostic and treatment planning phase. We want to make our daily work more predictable and efficient. A large number of articles describing the “perfect smile” have also been published in the dental field over the past decades. Most of them want to create a link between mathematical and physical laws to what we consider beautiful or esthetic. If you look at the results, you might also find many correlations. Also, in *The International Journal of Esthetic Dentistry*, you can find similar articles.

In this context I would like to share a picture of a young patient who came to our office for a recall appointment. You can look at this smile in different ways. You might follow your first thought and decide whether you find this smile attractive or not. You then might ask the patient if she has any problems or concerns related to her smile. Or you start analyzing the image using one or more tools available on the market, and then find



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out that this smile is completely “wrong” and definitely needs a treatment. Then you try to convince your patient that this smile is far from being perfect and that improving this smile with a dental treatment, or even a correction of the upper lip, will improve the quality of life of your patient and make her more successful.

The patient has a caries free dentition and is happy with her smile. The “imperfection” makes this smile look different and special. So before you take any action, ask your patient.

Enjoy reading.

Sincerely yours,
Alessandro Devigus

