

Pearly Whites

(Jensen, UCSF)

Janice is a new patient to your practice, she is 43 years old with a history of sporadic dental care and she reports that her last dental visit was over ten years ago. She has no symptoms but her chief complaint is her front teeth which have yellowed following years of coffee drinking and smoking. You perform a comprehensive exam that reveals little caries but moderate to severe generalized periodontal disease and several anterior composites that are leaking and stained. You question her regarding her lack of regular care. She says that nothing has bothered her and she just hasn't really cared much about her teeth until they became discolored. She has read about porcelain veneers and would like to have these done if it will help the look of her teeth. You present your treatment plan that includes four quadrants of scaling and root planing and then porcelain veneers on teeth #6-11. Janice is excited about getting started on the veneers right away but tells you that she will wait to have the periodontal work done.