

SURFACE MORPHOLOGIC CHANGES IN HUMAN ENAMEL FOLLOWING BLEACHING

- AN IN VITRO SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPE STUDY



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Esthetics, by definition is the science of beauty, it is derived from the greek word 'perception' which deals with beauty as an art.

In the modern civilized cosmetically conscious world well contoured and well aligned white teeth, set the standard for beauty. Such teeth are not only considered attractive, but also indicative of nutritional health, self esteem, hygienic pride and economic status².

Currently there are several methods available to treat discoloured dentitions such as laminates, veneer's, jacket crowns and bleaching methods.

Bleaching as a treatment modality, continues to hold its century old place as the simplest, most common, least invasive and least expensive means to lighten discoloured teeth.

Hydrochloric acid and hydrogen peroxide have been used alone and in combination, in a variety of treatment techniques to remove stains from vital teeth.

Hydrochloric acid was reportedly the first of the two chemical agents used to remove intrinsic dental stains from vital teeth.

Heat was applied on the assumption that the bleaching agents would penetrate deeper in to the enamel and dentin²⁸.