

# TECHNIQUE CLINIC

## Using Metal Mesh for a Temporary Bonded Prosthesis

**A** prosthetic tooth is sometimes needed at the end of orthodontic treatment to replace a tooth lost because of agenesis or trauma. Bonding a resin prosthesis with a metal mesh\* avoids having to use a removable prosthesis and allows a delay of as long as several years, until the patient has finished growing, before fitting a permanent prosthesis or implant.

In the case shown here, the patient lost the maxillary right incisor in an accident (A). The space was regained orthodontically. At the end of treatment, impressions were taken for fabrication of the prosthesis.

For better stability, two thicknesses of metal mesh were welded together, then cut to their final shape with a scissor. The mesh was bonded to the resin tooth to form lateral wings extending to the lingual of the two adjacent teeth (B). After the tooth surfaces were prepared as usual, the mesh wings were bonded to them with a light-cured composite (C).

This method combines stability, low cost, and esthetic quality (D).



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