

# Temporary Esthetic Composite Pontic

DANIELA VASSALLO, DDS  
SERGIO TERRANOVA, MD, DDS, MS

**A**dult patients who need extractions today demand more esthetic forms of treatment, including lingual orthodontics. These patients refuse to tolerate the inevitable “black holes” of extraction spaces in their social and professional lives. The present article describes a temporary esthetic pontic that can fill extraction sites in lingual orthodontic treatment, but would be equally useful in labial treatment.

## Procedure

On the pretreatment plaster cast, wax the buccal surfaces (lingual surfaces for a labial case) of both the tooth to be extracted and the adjacent



Fig. 1 Wax applied to buccal surfaces of first and second premolars on cast.



Fig. 2 Impression of segment including first premolar to be extracted.

tooth (Fig. 1). This will help avoid any rotation of the adjacent tooth caused by the thickness of the composite veneer. Make an impression of the segment including the tooth to be extracted (Fig. 2).

In the impression, build up the composite pontic and the attached veneer using a light-cured, microfilled composite for the inner layer and a fluid composite for the external layer (Fig. 3). After polymerization, polish and finish the appliance with the extracted tooth removed from the cast (Fig. 4).



Fig. 3 Pontic and attached veneer built up with internal layer of light-cured, microfilled composite and external layer of fluid composite.



Fig. 4 Pontic and attached veneer after finishing and polishing, with extracted tooth removed from cast.

Dr. Vassallo is from the Department of Orthodontics, University of Ferrara, Italy. Her address is Corso d'Italia, 92, 00198 Rome, Italy; e-mail: danielsunshine@libero.it. Dr. Terranova is in the private practice of orthodontics.



Dr. Vassallo



Dr. Terranova

Prepare the buccal surface of the tooth to which the esthetic veneer is to be bonded as usual with an acid etchant, primer, and light-cured adhesive (Fig. 5). Attach the veneer to that surface, and cure the adhesive (Fig. 6). Remove any occlusal prematurities that could dislodge the temporary esthetic prosthesis.

As the extraction space is closed, gradually reduce the composite pontic until it is completely removed during the finishing phase (Fig. 7).



Fig. 5 Buccal surface of second premolar prepared for bonding.



Fig. 6 Esthetic veneer with attached pontic bonded to second premolar.



Fig. 7 Composite pontics gradually reduced during space closure.