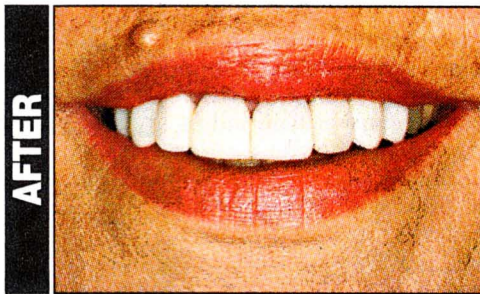


Sue Roser's smile before and after her cosmetic dentistry.



BEFORE



AFTER

Photographs courtesy of Glenn Norton

MAKEOVER *for a* SMILE

COSMETIC DENTAL PROCEDURES

Composite resin bonding

Composite resin is applied to the teeth, cured, sculpted and polished, covering discoloration, gaps, chips and cavities.

Porcelain veneers

Thin custom-made porcelain shells are bonded to the front of the teeth, masking chips, cracks, gaps and crooked areas.

Zoom! teeth whitening

Whitening gel and light are applied to the teeth, lightening them an average of eight shades.

Tooth-colored fillings

Composite resin is used to fill cavities, matching the color of the teeth and strengthening them.

Crowns and bridges

Crowns cover weak or damaged teeth, restoring both function and appearance. A bridge is a false tooth, anchored to adjacent teeth, used to replace a missing tooth.

Implants

Crowns are attached to titanium posts in the jaw bone, replacing or restoring one or more teeth.

Dentures and partials

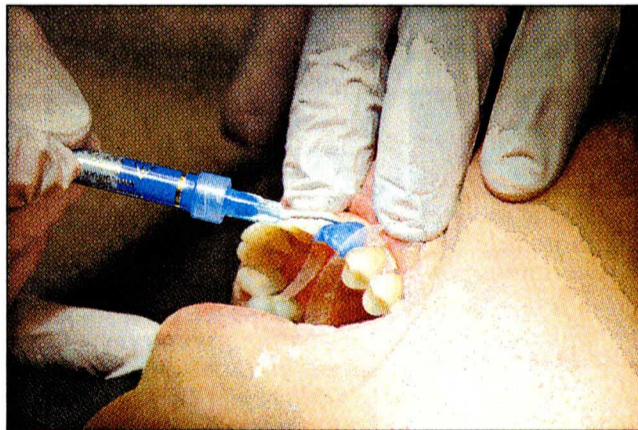
Full custom dentures are a removable replacement for all of the teeth. Partial dentures can fill spaces, when several teeth are missing and there are not enough left to create a bridge.

Source: Evansville dentist Glenn Norton



BOB GWALTNEY / Courier & Press

Dr. Glenn Norton builds the new teeth of Sue Roser of Carmi, Ill., in his Evansville office. Norton applied composite resin bonding to Roser's teeth, then sculpted and polished them to give them a more even look and coloring.



Composite resin bonding procedure sculpts a brighter, more attractive new look

By LIBBY KEELING

Courier & Press staff writer

464-7450 or keelingl@courierpress.com

Sue Roser has always been afraid of the dentist. "Back when I was a kid, you didn't go to the dentist until you had a toothache and usually had a tooth pulled," she said. "You just went in there and sat down and shut up and got your tooth pulled."

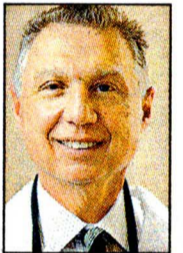
Although Evansville dentist Glenn Norton has never caused her pain during routine cleanings, fillings and crowns, Roser said, the pair discussed a smile makeover for years before she summoned the courage to undergo the procedure last month.

A smile makeover is any procedure that enhances the smile, Norton said, such as porcelain veneers, composite resin bonding or even dentures.

Roser was unhappy with fillings in her front teeth that had darkened and become discolored over time. Her adult children said she looked as though she had a popcorn husk between her teeth.

"I have been talking about it forever, and Dr. Norton has been talking about it forever," she said. "He knows how to handle me with my fears."

At first they considered porcelain veneers, custom-designed porcelain shells bonded to the teeth, but Roser, 67, decided



"It's like an art based on science. I just love the artistic challenge of it."

— Dr. Glenn Norton

See SMILE on Page D2

SMILE

Continued from Page D1

veneers were too expensive. About three years ago, she opted for composite resin bonding. Veneers are more durable, as well as more costly and time-consuming, Norton said. Although less durable, the improvement of composite resin typically lasts from about seven to 12 years.

Finally, a mock-up — Norton's application of temporary material to her teeth, simulating bonding results — persuaded her to proceed.

"I thought it looked great. Oh, I was very pleased with it," Roser said.

"After I decided to do it, I wasn't nervous, once I got it in my mind this was what I was going to do. This is what I wanted to do."

Her husband, Lowell, also was impressed with the results of the mock-up.

"He was as excited or more than I was," she said. "He

thought it was great."

Since she doesn't care for the sound of a drill, Roser was shocked to find herself so relaxed — with only a local anesthetic — she fell asleep during the six-hour bonding process.

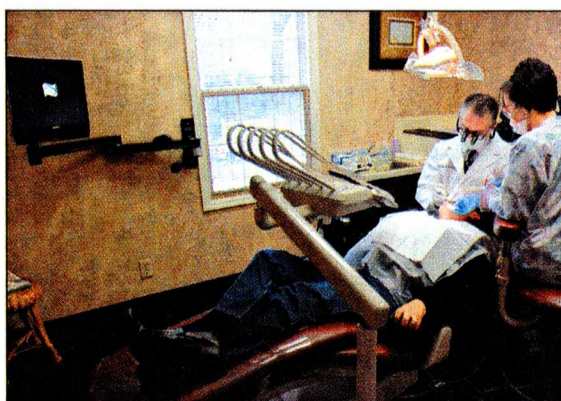
"If anybody would ever have told me I was going to do that, I wouldn't have believed it," she said. "I thought: I don't know how I'm going to handle this. It was great. I had no problems."

To complete the bonding, Norton roughened the surfaces of eight of Roser's top front teeth before bonding on the composite resin, which initially has a puttylike consistency.

The material is basically a resin filled with quartz particles of varying size that is durable, polishable and color stable, he said.

"I should have done this years ago, instead of waiting until I was an old woman," said Roser, who lives in Carmi, Ill.

"When I got through this



BOB GWALTNEY / Courier & Press

Dr. Glenn Norton and assistant Kelly Wollenmann assist Sue Roser of Carmi, Ill.

time, I thought: That was silly. You worried about that for three years. You should have done it three years ago."

Norton wields special gold-plated instruments to shape

and mold the resin to look like teeth, he said, and light is used to cure the resin. For Roser, he also added length to her teeth, evened them and checked her bite.

"The aesthetic and the function go hand-in-hand," said Norton, 63. "It's like an art based on science. I just love the artistic challenge of it."

Norton has always been interested in cosmetic dentistry, but for years, he said, the materials did not meet the demands of his vision.

They have improved significantly, he said, and now about two-thirds of his practice is devoted to functional/cosmetic procedures requested by patients. "It's instant gratification for both of us," he said. "They hug you. They bring you cookies. They cry when you show them the mirror."

Roser describes the improvement in her smile as 100 percent.

"I really like this. I really do," she said. "Now I'm thinking about doing some of my bottom teeth."

Composite resin bonding and porcelain veneers are the

most popular procedures in his practice. Lately, more patients have been selecting bonding, Norton said, probably because of the economy.

The same procedure can be very simple or very complex, he said, so it is impossible to provide an average cost for the work. Norton said he has no set fees but charges based on his time and materials.

The American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry does not provide cost ranges either. Academy spokesman Eric Nelson said costs vary widely from practice to practice and from region to region.

Norton has been a member of the academy since 1996. Veneers and bonding have been available for more than 20 years, he said, and demand for cosmetic procedures is gradually increasing.

"They just keep improving it every year," he said. "There's no end to this. It's amazing."