

Bleaching - the facts and the myths

An in-depth interview by Aisling O'Mahony with bleaching expert, Dr Van Haywood.

Forward

If you offer bleaching, patients will appreciate the option. Regardless of how they appear, most people do not wish to be unattractive. With a good knowledge of how the smile should fit into the face, and how the teeth and gingiva should relate in the smile, the dentist can dramatically alter a patient's appearance. This could be as simple as bleaching, composite bonding, or tooth recontouring or more complicated involving gingivalplasty, surgical corrections and ceramic veneers or crowns.

Van B. Haywood, D.M.D., is Professor in the Department of Oral Rehabilitation, School of Dentistry, Medical College of Georgia. In 1989, he co-authored the first publication in the world on Nightguard Vital Bleaching (at-home tray bleaching using 10% carbamide peroxide) with Dr. Harald Heymann, which formally introduced the technique to the profession. Since that time, he has completed further clinical and laboratory on that technique, resulting in over 60 bleaching publications and many local, national and international speaking opportunities. He also co-authored the first publication in the world on extended treatment times for tetracycline-stained teeth with 10% carbamide peroxide.

