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WHITENING

Beyond Teeth Bleaching: The Clinical Benefits and Diverse Applications of 10% Carbamide Peroxide

Miles R. Cone, DMD, CDT, FACP; Cornelia Cone, MA; and Polly Wedge, BS

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ABSTRACT

With the increased demand for dental esthetics among the general public in recent years, in-office and at-home teeth-bleaching treatments currently represent the most popular cosmetic dental procedures. However, while the teeth-whitening effects of bleaching formulations such as 10% carbamide peroxide are well known, the cariostatic and anti-bacterial benefits of carbamide peroxide can also serve an important role in clinical practice, elevating the overall therapeutic utility of carbamide peroxide formulations. This article examines the use of 10% carbamide peroxide in pediatric dentistry, orthodontics, endodontics, periodontics, and oral surgery, and highlights its diverse applications, which leverage the bactericidal and cariostatic effects of this bleaching formulation and extend its benefits beyond cosmetic teeth whitening.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe the cariostatic and bactericidal benefits of 10% carbamide peroxide
- Discuss some of the treatments for which 10% carbamide peroxide can be used adjunctively and the benefit of 10% carbamide peroxide in these applications across various specialties
- Discuss common patient concerns related to the use of teeth bleaching agents, and explain patient education for addressing these concerns

According to a survey of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, an overwhelming majority (99.7%) of US adults believe that an attractive smile is a significant social asset, with “whiteness of teeth” ranking among the top attributes of an esthetically pleasing smile.¹ The high value placed on dental esthetics, together with the general public’s heightened awareness of and desire for cosmetic dental procedures, has in recent decades led to an increasing demand for teeth-whitening treatments. To address this need, the dental industry has flooded the market with a wide variety of teeth-whitening products—including over-the-counter toothpastes, gels, strips, and trays, as well as products and treatments administered by dental professionals, such as take-home trays and in-office systems—targeting both consumers and clinicians. The process of chemically bleaching the teeth continues to have appeal for most patients because it is minimally invasive and more affordable than other cosmetic alternatives, such as direct adhesive restorations or porcelain laminate veneers.

Most dental whitening products contain either hydrogen peroxide or carbamide peroxide gel as the primary agent, which is applied directly to the teeth. Carbamide peroxide, also known as urea peroxide, was first described

with great enthusiasm in the medical literature more than 100 years ago, when it was used for its disinfectant properties and remarkable therapeutic ability to promote wound healing.² In 1957, a 10% carbamide peroxide concentration was first made available as an over-the-counter oral antiseptic aqueous solution called “Gly-Oxide” (personal communications with Prestige Consumer Healthcare Inc., Tarrytown, NY; August 2022). The oral health benefits and safety of this 10% formulation have been demonstrated in the treatment of candidiasis/thrush in infants,³ the prevention of caries in elderly adults suffering from xerostomia,⁴ and the prevention of caries in children when it is applied daily throughout orthodontic therapy.⁵ In 1968, Dr. Bill Klusmeier, an orthodontist, noticed that his patients who utilized Gly-Oxide in their retainers at night exhibited marked improvements to their gingival health and also experienced a lightening effect on their overall tooth shade.^{6,7} This discovery provided the impetus for the development of an easier-to-apply, slow-release 10% carbamide peroxide gel, and the initial publication of take-home tooth whitening protocols.⁸ Today, in-office and at-home bleaching products are a multi-billion dollar industry, and represent the most popular treatments available to improve oral esthetics.

While the overwhelming focus of marketing for bleaching products centers around enhancing dental esthetics, it is noteworthy that whitening of the teeth represents a formerly off-label use and an unintended byproduct of the original indications for hydrogen peroxide and carbamide peroxide—namely, antisepsis and oral hygiene. A variety of different products are available for at-home use of 10% carbamide peroxide (eg, Pola Night, SDI; Opalescence™ 10%, Ultradent; and Philips® Zoom NiteWhite 10% carbamide peroxide, Koninklijke Philips N.V.). In this article, we examine the use of 10% carbamide peroxide across a broad spectrum of dental specialties and a variety of clinical scenarios (including teeth whitening and oral

hygiene in pediatric and orthodontic patients, whitening of a nonvital tooth, reduction of bio-burden around endosseous implants, and after oral surgery), highlighting its diverse applications in unexpected contexts that leverage the benefits of 10% carbamide peroxide bleaching agents, both as a means of augmenting dental esthetics and as an important adjunct to oral hygiene practices.

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Vital teeth bleaching for adolescent patients, with or without orthodontic appliances, has not been detailed in the literature as extensively as it has been for adults. Common reservations that practitioners have regarding teeth-bleaching procedures for children include the rationale for bleaching, the most appropriate age to begin teeth-whitening treatment, and safety concerns.

Studies report that children as young as 4 years old are aware of perceived esthetic differences in tooth shade, which could result in feelings of self-consciousness, low self-esteem, and avoidance of smiling or socializing in those with discolored teeth.⁹⁻¹¹ It is therefore prudent to consider the emotional and psychosocial effects associated with not treating or with delaying intervention for tooth discoloration in adolescents.^{12,13} Safe and appropriate procedures to



Fig 1. Left panel: Presentation of 14-year-old patient before teeth-bleaching treatment. Prior to treatment, a careful shade analysis should be done to establish a baseline reference point, utilizing traditional shade guides and digital photography (top right panel) or a more objective and precise colorimeter (bottom right panel).



Fig 2. Top panel: Pretreatment situation of adolescent patient. Bottom panel: After 2 weeks of at-home teeth-bleaching treatment utilizing 10% carbamide peroxide in custom trays (Pola Night, SDI), the patient has achieved a final result that is six shades brighter than the baseline shade. **Fig 3.** The traditional practice of adding resin to the facial surface of cast impressions to develop reservoirs inside the custom-fit tray is time-consuming, results in gingival irritation, and has been shown to be ineffective.^{22,23} **Fig 4.** Top panel: Bleaching tray designs with nonscalloped margins are demonstrably easier to fabricate and result in improved patient compliance compared with trays with a scalloped margin (bottom panel), which may possess a rough and jagged border. **Fig 5.** The use of composite resin “buttons” to aid in the movement of teeth is a common feature of aligner therapy and may make oral hygiene more challenging for the patient. **Fig 6.** Clear aligners may serve a dual purpose as a custom-fit bleaching tray. In addition, the patient benefits from the antibacterial properties and beneficial cariostatic effects of the urea byproduct in 10% carbamide peroxide when the custom-fit tray (ie, the aligners) is allowed to remain in contact with the gingiva overnight. **Fig 7.** Initial presentation before teeth-bleaching treatment (left panel) and pretreatment tooth shade evaluation (right panel) of a patient with stained composite resin on gingival third of maxillary central incisors.

lighten the shade of permanent dentition may mitigate or prevent bullying and associated mental health conditions.¹⁴

Treatment should always be preceded by an individual assessment to determine whether a patient is a good candidate for teeth-whitening treatment (Figure 1). A thorough patient examination should include pretreatment radiographs to assess for caries and whether the permanent dentition is present. Once it has been determined that there are no obvious contraindications for a particular individual, vital teeth bleaching may be considered for adolescent patients ranging in age from 10 to 14 years (ie, those in whom the permanent teeth are present).¹⁵

The most frequently cited safety concerns for teeth-bleaching procedures in adolescents are gingival irritation and sensitivity.¹⁶ Although it has been hypothesized that the proportionally larger pulp complexes in adolescents compared

with adults increases the risk for tooth sensitivity during teeth-bleaching procedures, clinical studies have invalidated this hypothesis.¹⁷ At-home use of 10% carbamide peroxide in customized, vacuum-formed bleaching trays for at least 2 hours per day or overnight with adult supervision has consistently remained the recommended teeth-bleaching protocol for patients younger than age 18 years (Figure 2). The overnight contact (ie, for up to 10 hours) of the carbamide peroxide with the gingival tissues provides a tremendous oral hygiene benefit in this patient population.¹⁸ Beyond the compelling evidence for improved hygiene with continued use of 10% carbamide peroxide, the breakdown of 10% carbamide peroxide intraorally results in urea as a byproduct and contributes significantly to beneficial cariostatic and antibacterial effects.^{19,20}

Concerns, however, from parents and practitioners alike regarding potential chemical

The breakdown of 10% carbamide peroxide intraorally results in urea as a byproduct and contributes significantly to beneficial cariostatic and antibacterial effects

burns to the delicate gingiva and oral mucosa have been raised.²¹ Most of the discomfort and irritation from at-home teeth-bleaching has been shown to be a result of the tray fit rather than the chemical properties of treatment.^{6,8} Custom-fit trays have traditionally been fabricated with built-in bleaching gel reservoirs (developed by adding resin to the cast impressions)^{22,23} (Figure 3) and a scalloped gingival margin (Figure 4). However, the sharp and jagged edges of this design, compared with a non-scalloped tray), may be uncomfortable to some patients, leading to reduced compliance,²¹ and the use of reservoirs has not demonstrated an improvement in the shade of the teeth and has also been shown to result in higher rates and intensity of gingival irritation.²³

ORTHODONTICS

Clear aligner therapy, and to a lesser extent conventional bonded brackets and archwires, are routine orthodontic treatments for many adolescent patients. Both modalities possess potential drawbacks to optimal oral health. Aligners, for example, rely on the use of composite resin attachments, or “buttons,” to aid in the movement of the teeth (Figure 5). These attachments are porous and usually possess an irregular shape, which may adversely affect the patient’s oral hygiene. When used in combination with 10% carbamide peroxide gel, the aligners serve as a well-adapted custom-fit tray (Figure 6).²⁴ For the patient younger than age 18 years, carbamide peroxide is also an ideal bleaching agent because of the antibacterial properties and beneficial cario-

static effects that the urea byproduct has on gingival health scores.²⁰ In order to achieve the maximum oral health benefits, the aligners containing the whitening gel should ideally be worn overnight or for up to 10 hours.¹⁸

A common concern for patients who utilize teeth-bleaching products during aligner treatment is the potential for discoloration or yellowing of the tooth structure under the adhesively

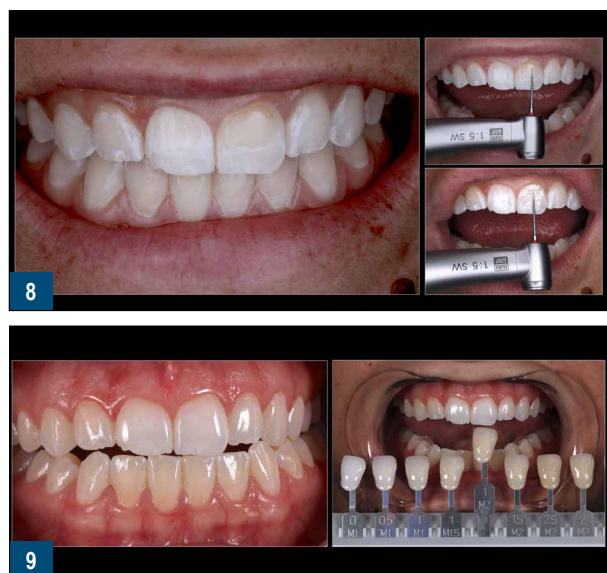


Fig 8. Following 2 weeks of at-home whitening with 10% carbamide peroxide in custom-fit trays (Pola Night, SDI, left panel), the patient shown in Figure 7 elected to have the bonded composite restorations on the maxillary incisors removed (right panels). The uniform tooth color under each restoration at the time of their removal demonstrates the ability of the bleaching gel to permeate the dental hard tissues. **Fig 9.** Final clinical situation (left panel) and tooth shade evaluation (right panel) for the patient of Figure 7 and Figure 8 following 2 weeks of at-home bleaching treatment and removal of facial composite restorations.

bonded component that was not in contact with the bleaching agent.²⁵ However, numerous studies, as well as the author's own clinical experience, have demonstrated that the permeability of the dental hard tissues and the capillary action of peroxides allows complete penetration and diffusion of the bleaching medium under any existing resin buttons, brackets, or composite restorations (Figure 7 through Figure 9).^{26,27}

For patients undergoing traditional orthodontic therapy, brackets and archwire often create food traps that have a negative impact on gingival health. Providing custom vacuum-formed whitening trays for these patients often requires making alginate impressions over the intricate dental attachments, an impractical process with inaccurate results.²⁰ A preformed

silicone mouthpiece may be a more immediate and economical solution to aid in oral hygiene around difficult-to-clean orthodontic hardware, as well as provides a vehicle for teeth whitening.

ENDODONTICS

Discoloration of the permanent maxillary anterior dentition poses a significant esthetic and cosmetic concern for many individuals, with the maxillary central incisors being the most commonly affected teeth.²⁸ The etiology of tooth discoloration is frequently a multifactorial phenomenon and may be caused by a combination of necrosis of the pulpal tissues related to trauma, loss of vitality, incomplete extirpation of the pulp horns, and various restorative materials/procedures.²⁹⁻³²



Fig 10. Discoloration of a nonvital single central incisor is a common clinical situation that can be addressed through a safe and conservative approach utilizing an internal bleaching technique (the “walking bleach” technique) with 10% carbamide peroxide (Pola Night, SDI). **Fig 11.** Left panel: The final esthetic results after 1 week of nonvital intracoronal bleaching (the “walking bleach” technique) and a 2-week color stabilization phase. Right panel: Occasionally the discolored tooth may appear slightly whiter than the adjacent teeth in retracted photos following internal bleaching; however, this situation is rarely objectionable to the patient and may prompt a request to bleach their remaining teeth. **Fig 12.** The replacement of restorations over nonvital teeth represents a collaborative challenge for the clinical and laboratory teams. **Fig 13.** Left panel: Darkened tooth stumps and root structure may impact the esthetics of any translucent ceramic restorations placed over them. Right panel: Internal bleaching has been shown to be an effective means of producing a more favorable substrate color that favors the achievement of an optimal esthetic final result.



Fig 14. The final stump shade should ultimately be guided by the ceramist’s knowledge of core materials (top left panel) and layering porcelain for masking the underlying tooth structure (bottom left panel). **Fig 15.** Final delivery of full-contour porcelain crowns on the central incisors in the patient shown in Figure 14. For restorations that will be adhesively luted over internally bleached teeth, a minimum waiting period of 2 weeks should be observed to allow the dissipation of excess oxygen that may otherwise negatively impact the bond strength of the cement.

For clinical situations involving a nonvital and discolored natural tooth (Figure 10), intracoronary bleaching, also known as the “walking bleach” technique, has been consistently shown to be a conservative treatment option compared with more aggressive direct/indirect restorative procedures such as composite bonding, porcelain laminate veneers, or full coverage crowns.³³ Additionally, for patients requesting the lightening of a single dark tooth, internal bleaching is often more cost-effective and less dependent on patient compliance than the daily use of a whitening tray. Contemporary protocols often include the use of strong oxygen-releasing chemical compounds, such as 30% to 35% hydrogen peroxide, which have been associated with adverse complications including external invasive cervical root resorption.^{34,35} The evaluation and outcomes of endodontic techniques utilizing a safer 10% carbamide peroxide formulation are well-documented in the literature and clinically, and have proved to be a reliable, predictable option for the internal bleaching of nonvital discolored teeth (Figure 11).³⁶⁻³⁸

When a patient presents with previously restored nonvital anterior teeth (Figure 12), the challenge to produce a satisfactory esthetic outcome becomes a collaborative effort shared between the clinician and the dental laboratory team. The darkened stump and subgingival

root structure may produce an unfavorable shade to any definitive translucent ceramic restoration. In addition to its usefulness in intact nonvital teeth, the walking bleach technique with 10% carbamide peroxide is a safe and effective treatment modality for teeth with denuded enamel. Treatment to achieve the desired final shade may be completed within a single in-office application; however, the decision to discontinue internal bleaching will largely depend on the ceramist’s abilities and knowledge of the materials being applied to mask the final stump shade of the tooth preparation (Figure 13 and Figure 14). Residual oxygen from the decomposition of 10% carbamide peroxide may remain within the dental tissues for 7 to 15 days after internal bleaching.^{39,40} This excess oxygen has the potential to negatively impact the bond strength of the adhesive components during the cementation of the final crowns, and it is therefore recommended that at least 2 weeks elapse before final delivery of the definitive restorations (Figure 15).⁴¹

Twenty-five-year follow-up studies for patients undergoing internal bleaching have demonstrated long-term predictable color stability, with success rates of 85%.⁴² Failure is ultimately defined as an observable mismatch of the adjacent dentition by two or more shades,⁴³ and while the precise mechanism for color relapse

is not clearly understood, the possibility of future discoloration of the substrate and restoration must be carefully considered and discussed with the patient prior to initiating treatment.

PERIODONTICS

Early intervention in the management of oral biofilms is critical to avoid the breakdown of the surrounding hard and soft tissue in patients with dental implants. It is not uncommon for patients to present to the clinic with implant-supported prosthetics that are in the advanced stages of failure (Figure 16). Often these individuals experience no discomfort or functional issues, and they are not ready to have their implants removed. For the edentulous patient in this situation, the overdenture may serve

as a convenient vehicle to deliver an application of 10% carbamide peroxide to the implant threads (Figure 17). Carbamide peroxide in a concentration of 10% possesses a bacterial inhibitory effect on both *Streptococcus mutans* and *Lactobacilli* when applied for 2 hours or more,⁴⁴ and the hydrogen that is released has been further shown to efficiently suppress the growth of *Actinomyces actinomycetemcomitans*.⁴⁵ Although not clinically ideal, leveraging the antibacterial effects of 10% carbamide peroxide to aid in the reduction of bioburden and oral pathology around failing implants (Figure 18) may serve to provide the patient with the protracted time necessary to prepare mentally and financially for the transition towards a new prosthesis and oral situation.

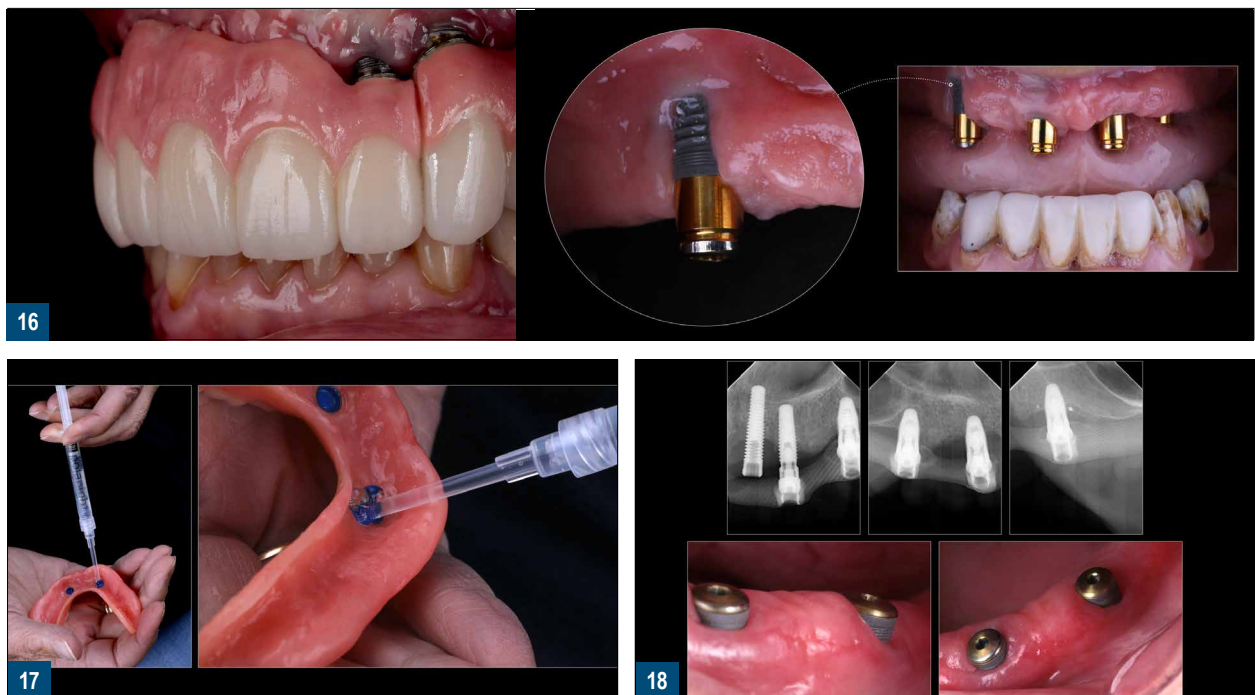
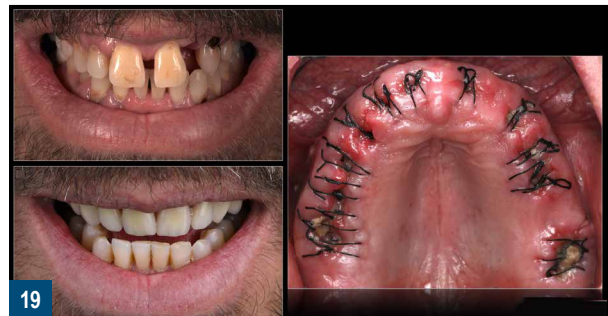


Fig 16. Implant failure is a common occurrence in clinical practice with both fixed restorations (left panel) and removable prosthetics (middle and right panels). **Fig 17.** An implant overdenture can be used as a custom-fit tray to deliver 10% carbamide peroxide (Pola Night, SDI) around endosseous implants and hardware. **Fig 18.** Top panel: Vertical bone loss around endosseous implants may result in loss of soft tissue and exposed implant threads that are challenging to keep clean because of their roughened surface. Bottom panel: Application of 10% carbamide peroxide using a custom-fit tray (Pola Night, SDI) or the patient's existing removable prosthesis aids in the maintenance of a clean implant surface through the reduction of bioburden and build-up around the exposed titanium threads.

ORAL SURGERY

When a patient undergoes a full-arch/full-mouth tooth extraction, significant changes in the oral microflora occur, including the reduction of *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans*, *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, and other putative periodontal pathogens below detectable threshold levels. In a large proportion of these patients, particularly those patients with a history of periodontitis,⁴⁶ many bacterial species remain in the oral cavity for up to 3 months or more.⁴⁷ Because of the increased risk for infection and discomfort at this postoperative stage, reduction of these pathogens becomes a priority for these patients.

Following the extraction of the terminal dentition in one or both arches, the patient will usually be given an immediate denture to wear as means of providing esthetics and function to the edentulous ridge(s). Immediate dentures also serve to maintain the position of the blood clot, control bleeding, reduce swelling, and act as a protective splint for the surgical sites from food debris and oral fluids. Common protocols often involve instructing the patient not to remove the immediate prosthesis for the initial 48 to 72 hours after surgery to control edema and then to return to the dental clinic to remove the prosthesis and to relieve any occlusal discrepancies or areas of soft tissue impingement. At this time, the patient may be given 10% carbamide peroxide to place on the ridge of the intaglio of the immediate denture for the next 3 to 4 days (for 2 to 8 hours per day) before the 1 week follow-up visit (Figure 19). Compared with other antimicrobial agents, the hydrogen peroxide produced from the slow decomposition of 10% carbamide peroxide possesses numerous advantages, including its natural occurrence in host tissue and effervescence, which can aid in mechanical wound debridement and tissue healing.⁴⁸ Concerns over the use of higher hydrogen peroxide concentrations (>35%) have been reported in the medical literature, noting that the ingestion of large quantities of hydrogen peroxide solution may potentially lead to



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Fig 19. Left top panel: Pre-extraction situation. Left bottom panel: Final result with immediate maxillary denture in place. Right panel: Wound healing at 1 week following full-arch extractions and application of 10% carbamide peroxide (Pola Night, SDI).

Fig 20. Pretreatment situation for a patient requesting cosmetic improvement of a pre-existing implant crown (tooth No. 8) and composite resin build-up for a fractured natural incisor (tooth No. 9).

the catabolism of oxygen and the formation of a gas embolism⁴⁹; however, hydrogen peroxide in concentrations up to 3% and carbamide peroxide in concentrations up to 15% have been accepted by the US Food and Drug Administration as safe antiseptics for intraoral use.⁵⁰ Furthermore, because the daily production of hydrogen peroxide in the human liver, brain, and eyes is approximately 6.48 g in a period of 24 hours,⁵¹ whereas the amount of peroxide placed into the denture base is about 3.5 mg, the body is equipped to effectively tolerate these low doses of peroxide.⁵²

PROSTHODONTICS

Patients often seek replacement of their existing anterior restorations for cosmetic reasons (Figure 20), and they may not always be aware of the impact that whitening their natural teeth can have on the overall esthetics of

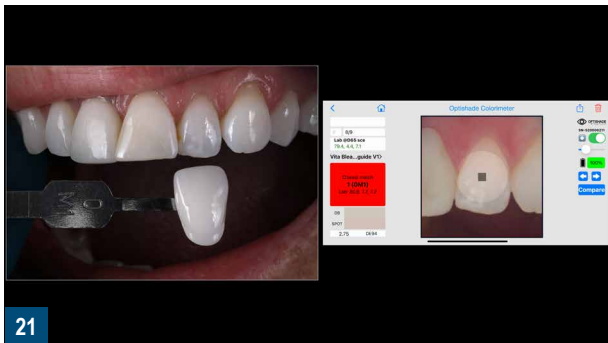


Fig 21. Left panel: Tooth shade assessment utilizing ceramic shade tabs and digital photography. Right panel: verification of the human perceived shade analysis from left panel utilizing a colorimeter. **Fig 22.** Seamless blend of full-contour zirconia crowns on an implant (tooth No. 8) and tooth with the natural adjacent dentition (tooth No. 9).

their new smile. These situations represent an excellent opportunity for the clinical team to inform their patients about the use of custom-fit trays for at-home teeth bleaching. Prior to the restorative treatment, it is important to ensure that the patient understands that the shade of their new ceramic crowns or veneers will not lighten in color if teeth-bleaching products are used after the definitive restorations have been placed. It is equally important for patients to understand that ceramic will not be affected by extrinsic stains and aging in the same way as the adjacent dentition,⁵³ and each restoration will serve as the benchmark shade value that will alert them that their natural teeth have discolored. Consequently, some maintenance will be required in the form of periodic or ongoing teeth-bleaching treatment to maintain the uniformity of tooth shade.

In keeping with the obligation to educate patients, it is prudent that clinicians not only strive to inform patients of all their treatment options but also provide research-based responses to the most frequently asked questions regarding vital teeth bleaching. A nearly universal question among patients who decide to use teeth-whitening treatments relates to what the most effective protocols are for pain management. The discomfort that may arise during the course of treatment is the most frequently cited reason for noncompliance and discontinuation of

teeth-bleaching procedures.⁵⁴ Common methods used to minimize patient discomfort are the use of topical desensitizing agents applied to custom-fit trays during or after treatment. Manufacturers have added combinations of various compounds including potassium nitrate, potassium oxalate, and sodium fluoride to the composition of their bleaching gels to aid in the prevention and reduction of sensitivity during at-home teeth-bleaching.⁵⁵⁻⁵⁷ The use of these topical desensitizing agents is highly effective in mitigating sensitivity caused by exposure to bleaching agents without compromising the efficacy of the treatment and is well documented in the literature.⁵⁸⁻⁶⁰

Another question that patients often ask is, “How white should my teeth be before I stop bleaching?” Throughout the course of treatment, periodic assessment of the tooth shade should be documented as a way to objectively monitor the progress of the teeth-bleaching treatment over time (Figure 21). It has been suggested in the literature, as well as noted in the authors’ own experience, that the teeth should ideally match the sclera of the eye for the most impactful results (Figure 22).⁶¹ Another common question patients have is, “Do I need to avoid colorful food and drink and/or stay on a ‘white diet’ while I am bleaching my teeth?” Multiple studies suggest that coffee, red wine,⁶² dark fruit,⁶³ and smoking⁶⁴ do not have a significant impact on the

overall whitening outcome during treatment.

A final question that is ubiquitous among patients is, “How long will my tooth bleaching results last?” Studies have shown that the minimal color stability of bleached teeth can range from 1 to 3 years, and in some cases tooth shade can remain stable for 10 years or more.⁶⁵ The importance of periodic maintenance needs to be encouraged, and offering complimentary bleaching gel for custom-fit trays at the 6 month to 1 year hygiene re-care appointments is an excellent motivator to have the patient return to the office.⁶⁶

CONCLUSION

With the constant bombardment of advertisements, the influence of social media, and the widespread availability of non-peer-reviewed patient resource materials, many of today’s dental patients have become overly aware of their dental esthetics, particularly with regard to a perceived ideal of whiter and straighter teeth. Currently the most popular cosmetic dental procedure, vital tooth bleaching has been highly accessible to patients because of its non-invasive nature and relatively low cost. However, dental bleaching agents have much wider applications, which extend beyond mere cosmetic dental enhancement. Continuous use of 10% carbamide peroxide is not only effective for teeth bleaching, but has also proved to be advantageous for oral health maintenance through its additional beneficial cariostatic and antibacterial effects. Thus, practitioners in orthodontics, endodontics, periodontics, and oral surgery can take advantage of these benefits by incorporating the use of 10% carbamide peroxide into many of their commonly utilized treatment modalities. The use of this formulation aids in the oral hygiene of patients receiving orthodontic treatment, and it is useful in the crucial early management of oral biofilms and the prevention of hard and soft tissue breakdown in patients with dental implants. The anti-

bacterial effects of 10% carbamide peroxide aid in wound debridement and tissue healing in oral surgery patients. The bleaching benefits of this formulation can also be extended to endodontic patients who request the lightening of single dark nonvital tooth, through the use of internal bleaching. Finally, practitioners in these dental specialties can incorporate carbamide peroxide into their treatment plans without significant impact on the dental treatment trajectory or significant additional cost to their patients, and can indeed enhance patients’ treatment outcomes overall.

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WHITENING

Beyond Teeth Bleaching: The Clinical Benefits and Diverse Applications of 10% Carbamide Peroxide

Miles R. Cone, DMD, CDT, FACP; Cornelia Cone, MA; and Polly Wedge, BS

- A 10% carbamide peroxide concentration was first made available as an over-the-counter oral antiseptic aqueous solution called:**
 - chlorhexidine.
 - Peroxyl.
 - “Gly-Oxide.”
 - None of the above
- Which of the following has consistently remained the recommended teeth-bleaching protocol for patients younger than age 18 years?**
 - At-home use of 10% hydrogen peroxide in customized, vacuum-formed trays overnight with adult supervision
 - At-home use of 10% carbamide peroxide in customized, vacuum-formed trays for at least 2 hours or overnight with adult supervision
 - In-office application of 30% hydrogen peroxide supervised by a dental professional
 - None of the above
- Custom-fit trays fabricated with gel reservoirs and a scalloped gingival margin may:**
 - be more comfortable than nonscalloped trays.
 - result in lower rates and intensity of gingival irritation.
 - be uncomfortable and result in higher rates and intensity of gingival irritation.
 - A and B
- In patients who utilize teeth-bleaching products during aligner treatment, the capillary action of peroxides:**
 - creates a potential for discoloration under the adhesively bonded component of the aligner.
 - does not allow complete penetration and diffusion of the bleaching medium under buttons, brackets, or composite restorations, according to numerous studies.
 - allows complete penetration and diffusion of the bleaching medium under buttons, brackets, or composite restorations, according to numerous studies.
 - A and B
- For clinical situations involving a nonvital and discolored natural tooth, which of the following bleaching treatments has been shown to be a conservative option compared with restorative procedures?**
 - 10% carbamide peroxide
 - 15% hydrogen peroxide
 - In-office application of 30% hydrogen peroxide on the tooth surfaces
 - Intracoronal bleaching, also known as the “walking bleach” technique
- For patients who undergo full-arch tooth extraction, the hydrogen peroxide produced from the slow decomposition of 10% carbamide peroxide can:**
 - aid in mechanical wound debridement and tissue healing.
 - lead to the formation of a gas embolism.
 - lead to the catabolism of oxygen.
 - All of the above
- Prior to the restorative treatment, it is important to ensure that the patient understands that:**
 - the shade of the new ceramic crown will not lighten in color if teeth bleaching products are used.
 - the new ceramic crown will be affected by extrinsic stains and aging in the same way as the adjacent dentition.
 - the new ceramic crown will not be affected by extrinsic stains and aging in the same way as the adjacent dentition.
 - A and C
- What compounds have been added to bleaching gels to aid in the prevention and reduction of sensitivity during at-home teeth-bleaching?**
 - Sodium fluoride
 - Potassium nitrate
 - Triclosan
 - A and B
- It has been suggested in the literature that the teeth should ideally match:**
 - the whites/brightest tab on the shade guide.
 - the sclera of the eye.
 - the patient’s skin tone.
 - the whitest of the patient’s own teeth prior to treatment.
- Which of the following do *not* have a significant impact on the overall whitening outcome during bleaching treatment?**
 - Coffee
 - Red wine
 - Dark fruit
 - All of the above

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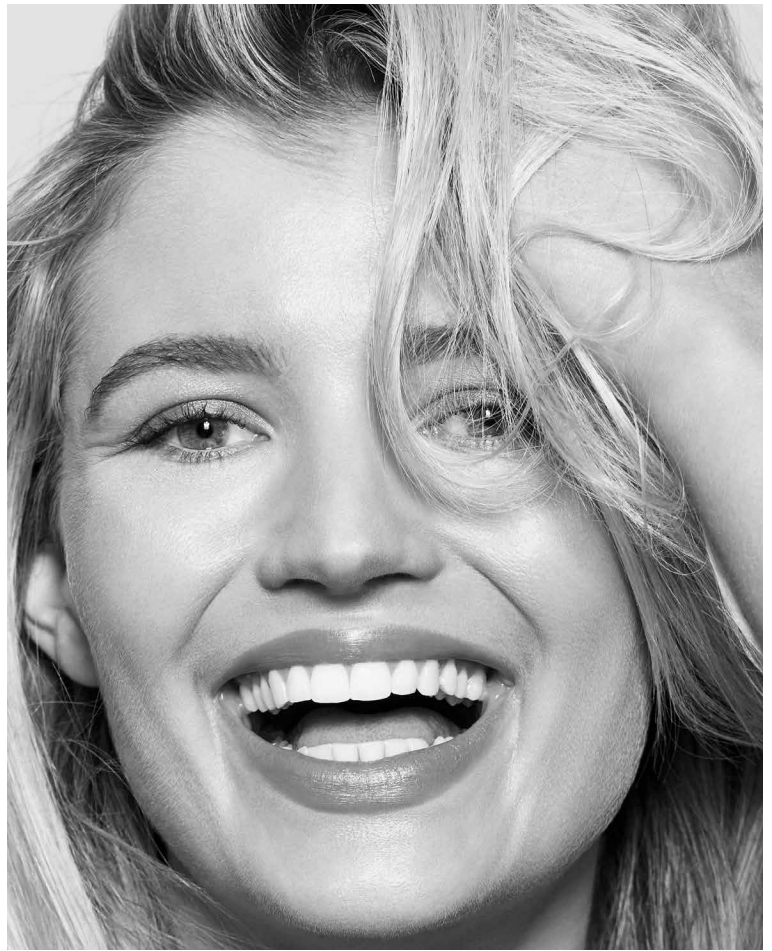


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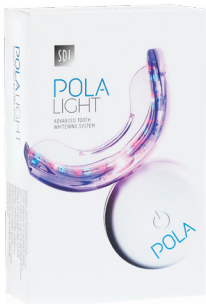


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