Esthetic rehabilitation using the visagism concept.

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Commentary:
Esthetic is the prime concern in the modern era of dentistry. Not only a dentist but also patients have developed concerning eye for esthetic. For years dental faculty have tried to harmonize the esthetics with certain traits such as age, gender, personality, etc ¹-⁴. Though personality is not an easy characteristic to measure it can be a reliable source of knowledge for an individual’s expectations from esthetic rehabilitations. Visage is the French word which means “face”. The concept of Visagism was put forward by Philip Hallawell. Visagism takes up a person’s sense of identity to create a customized personal image. This concept applies principles of esthetics as per sociology, psychology anthropology, and neurobiology to connect with different temperaments defining personality⁵. Though Visagism allows us to determine personality traits with many emotions, in dentistry, we are more concerned about the smile. Therefore this phenomenon applies different temperaments or traits of the personality of an individual to form a smile; unique to that individual. Four different temperaments are responsible for adding up to the personality of an individual as explained by Hippocrates⁶, which are:-

1. The choleric or strong temperament
2. Sanguine or dynamic temperament
3. Melancholic or sensitive temperament
4. Phlegmatic or peaceful temperament.

The concept includes combining these four temperaments for esthetic smile designing. There is software at the developing stage named “VisagiSMile (Web Motion LTD)” for easy assessment of data and treatment planning by using the concept of Visagism⁷. The concept of Visagism is in a primitive state in the current state, but it can give more harmonious and satisfactory results as advances will be done.

References


Keywords: Conservative Dentistry, esthetics, Smile Designing, Visagism.

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