

Advances In Prosthodontics™

New Findings & Best Practices for Cosmetic & Restorative Dentistry

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Do You Have a Patient Facing A Cancer Diagnosis?



Here's the story of a patient who was referred from another dental professional...

If you have a patient with several missing, broken or severely worn teeth, they may be a candidate for oral reconstruction with the assistance of a Prosthodontist.

Read more (and see the final result) on the next pages...

◆ Do you want another opinion on a complex case? Or to meet and share ideas?

There are many ways we can help each other by working together on complex cases and by sharing knowledge and experience.

With your reputation for quality dental care, and my experience with restorative treatments, we can work together on advanced cases and both benefit!

If you'd like to meet to discuss a treatment, or talk on the phone about how we can help each other, please call or email my office with specific days and times when you're available to talk or meet.

CASE SUMMARY: Rehabilitation of a Post-cancer resection

by Dr. Jack DeGrado, Prosthodontist

Patient “Dan” was referred to me by an Oral Surgeon at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center. He was diagnosed with ameloblastoma of the left mandible. This multilocular lesion spanned from tooth number 19 to 22. Dan was scheduled for a segmental resection of the lesion and reconstruction of the mandible with autogenous bone.

As a prosthodontist, I have experience planning complex, multi-stage treatment and coordinating with a patient’s general dentist and other specialists. This type of case required a multi-disciplinary approach. I worked closely with the oral surgeon to plan implant placement, and used my prosthodontic experience to ensure the highest standards of function & esthetics for the restoration. I’ll first share a quick overview then more detail regarding the challenges of this case.

The treatment sequence for Dan included the following:

- Partial resection of the mandible.
- Grafting using bone from the hip and stabilization of mandible with a bar.
- Dan’s mouth was then wired shut.
- After healing, Dan had to go through therapy to open his mouth again and get back to normal function.
- A wax-up was made to determine tooth position and soft tissue deficit.
- A surgical guide was made for the placement of implants.
- 4 Nobel implants were placed.
- Once implants healed, a partial implant-supported hybrid prosthesis was made.



More detail on the considerations that made this case challenging from a surgical and restorative perspective:

The jaw resection was large and required a big graft. It is always difficult to tell if the graft is going to take and if implants will integrate in the grafted bone. Post-surgically, Dan went through a series of exercises to get his jaw to open again. I could not start restorative treatment because he could not open wide enough. The first step when treatment planning restoration of a large defect, was to do a diagnostic wax-up. This allowed for determination of proper tooth position and evaluation of the extent of soft tissue and bone deficit. The placement of implants was difficult as well. A surgical guide was made to aid the implant placement. However, with this type of case, implants often go in where there is available bone.

Continued on next page...

Do you have a patient in Dan’s situation? Or another complex case?

If you have a question about a case and want another opinion, give my office a call. Or, if there’s a case that you want to work together on, please fill out and send in the enclosed referral form.

My office and I will take great care of your patient and keep you informed. Dental professionals refer to me as **The Complex Case Specialist™** because I perform complex cases every day.



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The interaction between the restorative and surgical team was critical in this case. Frequent consultations were necessary to plan implant position, angulation and placement. We also deliberated extraction of tooth number 24, which was periodontally compromised after surgery. The surgeon and Dan made a decision to hold on to the tooth, so I had to plan for a contingency in case the tooth was lost in the future.

Once the implants were uncovered, I was able to make a master cast and determine the exact position of the implants and their angulation. I worked closely with the laboratory to determine the best design for the prosthesis. Ultimately, a decision was made to restore the case using a titanium milled framework and denture teeth as well as wrap-around pink acrylic (as opposed to Zirconium). This allows for easier modification of the prosthesis in case the tissue changes over time, or if tooth 24 is lost due to periodontal disease. This tooth was compromised after the surgery, but Dan did not wish to have the tooth removed.

It has been a year since the restoration and Dan has had no recurrence of his cancer. The resection was so large that he felt half of his jaw was missing, so he was happy to be able to function again. Every time he comes to our office for maintenance, he thanks us and says he feels very lucky to have his life back.

I give all referred patients a warranty and refer them back to the general dentist for regular hygiene unless advised otherwise by the referring office, depending on the patient and treatment. If you have comments or questions about how I treated Dan from this example, please email me at: info@StamfordDentalGroup.com



Before

After

Have A Laugh: You know you're a dentist when...you see the bat-signal to help!



I hope I made you smile during your busy day!

I take the care of patients referred to me very seriously, including knowing how to educate them so they feel comfortable.

It's my goal to help every patient understand even the most difficult procedures, so they can regain the function and esthetics they desire.



Dr. Jack DeGrado

DDS, Prosthodontist ♦ The Complex Case Specialist™



Dr. Jack DeGrado is a Prosthodontist and works with dental professionals from all areas of Fairfield County

About Stamford Dental Group

Stamford Dental Group is Dr. DeGrado's practice where he specializes in fixed and removable prosthodontics, implant prosthodontics, and all phases of esthetic dentistry. Dr. DeGrado's prosthodontic training and experience make treatments of complex cases more successful, including the following examples:

- Patients with ill-fitting dentures, severely worn or damaged teeth can receive a single dental implant or a full arch of natural-looking teeth in a day.
- Patients who have suffered from traumatic injury, congenitally missing teeth, or a chronic condition can receive oral prostheses, which may be a combination of dental implants, crowns, bridges, or veneers.
- Patients with severe neglect of their oral health can receive a full mouth rehabilitation to restore function & esthetics.

Personal Message To Fellow Dental Practitioners:

“As the referring dentist, you know your patient's mouth and have key insight into your patient's needs. I want to work with you to provide your patients with the best possible treatment outcomes. I will treat your patient in a manner that will reflect well on you and strengthen your relationship with your patient. I am here to make you look good! When your patient's care is completed, they are referred back to your office for their ongoing dental care. I am grateful for your collegueship and trust with your patients!”

◆ Why other dental professionals work with a Prosthodontist

Prosthodontists are specialists in implant, esthetic, and reconstructive dentistry.

1. You have a patient requiring complex treatment outside of your typical practice.

Examples include patients with vertical dimension discrepancies, severely resorbed ridges, inadequate interarch space, TMJ, severe bruxism, traumatic tooth loss, or congenital abnormalities.

2. You have a patient with complex needs that may drain your time.

If your patient may require treatment from several specialists, Prosthodontists can help because they are trained to appropriately stage and manage complex treatment plans.

3. You have a demanding patient who wants perfect esthetics.

Examples include patients with a high smile line or needing a single tooth replacement in the esthetic zone. A Prosthodontist is trained in selecting the best solutions for high-demand patients.

4. You have a question and want to discuss a case with a colleague to ease your mind.

A Prosthodontist can be an excellent resource for you to ask questions because they are trained in many types of complicated treatments. For example, you may want to consult or refer to a Prosthodontist for complex implant-supported restorations. A Prosthodontist can work with you or complete the treatment for you to achieve the best in both function and esthetics.