

Advances In Prosthodontics™

New Findings & Best Practices for Cosmetic & Restorative Dentistry

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CASE SUMMARY:

Do You Have a Patient With This Situation? (see photos on right)...
pages 1-2

DENTAL JOURNAL BRIEF:

Quickly Get the Latest Research on Procedures & Materials For Better Outcomes... page 3

HAVE A LAUGH:

Carved Watermelon...
page 3

COMPLEX CASES:

Dr. DeGrado's Specialized Training, Prosthodontic Treatments, and Personal Message To Fellow Dental Practitioners... page 4

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Do You Have A Patient With Periodontal Disease?



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—or a condition affecting their teeth such as periodontal disease—they may be a candidate for oral reconstruction with the assistance of a Prosthodontist.

Read more 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: Full Mouth Reconstruction

by Dr. Frank Maratta, *Board Certified Prosthodontist*
Stamford Dental Group

Patient “Elaine” was referred to our office by another dental professional in the area who was busy with their patient load, and Elaine’s needs were more complex than they wanted to manage. I met with Elaine at her initial consultation, then had a follow-up visit with full X-rays.

Elaine had poor oral health due to being a smoker and having pre-diabetes. In addition, she had a very strong gag reflex and said she couldn’t wear dentures. She had a fear of dentists, but wanted a change because she was self-conscious about her smile.

As a prosthodontist, I have experience planning multi-stage treatment plans over several months, sometimes years, and can coordinate with a patient’s general dentist and other dental specialists.

My diagnosis included:

- generalized periodontitis
- missing and decayed teeth
- failing bridgework
- multiple planes of occlusion, loss of VDO
- loss of proper function



Elaine’s treatment plan included:

- Extraction of teeth, grafting, implant placement, fixed implant FDPs
- **Provisionals** – Immediate maxillary CD and immediate mandibular implant FDP
- **Definitive** – Maxillary and mandibular splinted FDPS; maxillary Ti framework with individual emax crowns; mandibular Ti framework with acrylic teeth



What made this case challenging was Elaine’s strong gag reflex. This made treatment slower but I am used to handling difficult dental situations. When the treatment plan was completed, Elaine said loves her teeth and can smile again!

Elaine received a full warranty and was sent back to the referring doctor’s office for long-term care. All referred patients are given a warranty and referred back to the general dentist for regular hygiene unless advised otherwise by the referring office, depending on the patient and treatment.

Do you have a patient in Elaine’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.



Quickly Get the Latest Research On Procedures & Materials For Better Outcomes...

What Implant Is That?

Radiographic identification of dental implants

Sahiwal IG, Woody RD, Benson BW, Guillen GE; J Prosthet Dent. 2002 May;87(5):543-77.

Problem and Purpose

The identification of dental implant bodies in patients without available records is a considerable problem due to increased patient mobility and to the large number of implant systems with different designs. The purpose of this study was to document the designs of selected implants to help clinicians identify these implants from radiographic images.

Materials and Methods

More than 50 implant manufacturers were contacted and asked to provide implants with dimensions as close as possible to 3.75 mm (diameter) x 10 mm (length). Forty-four implants were donated, separated into threaded and non-threaded categories, and further sorted into tapered and non-tapered categories. The implants were examined visually, and features on the entire circumference and length of each implant were recorded and categorized as coronal, midbody, or apical.

Radiographs were made of these implants at 0 degrees, 30 degrees, 60 degrees, and 90 degrees horizontal rotation combined with -20 degrees, -10 degrees, 0 degrees, +10 degrees, and +20 degrees vertical inclination relative to the radiographic beam and film. A total of 20 images per implant were taken and examined to identify consistent, unique features that would aid in implant identification. At a 20 degrees vertical inclination, vital features of implants were distorted enough to be deemed unrecognizable. Therefore, only those observations made from radiographs between -10 degrees and +10 degrees vertical inclination were used for implant identification purposes.

Results and Conclusion

All implants could be recognized from radiographs made between -10 degrees and +10 degrees vertical inclination. A series of tables describe the 44 implants according to coronal, midbody, and apical features. Information from this study should help dentists identify non-threaded and threaded endosseous implants from radiographic images.

Thoughts

Try using WhatImplantIsThat.com – a free “search engine” to quickly identify dental implants these studies inspired. At this website you can search hundreds of x-rays from a dental implant library and sort through them by process of elimination. Or, if you want to hold up a mobile device to a patient’s radiograph for even easier identification, you can download a dental implant identification mobile APP based off the online dental implant library at: WhatImplantIsThat.com/mobile

You can accomplish the same thing with either the free website or the mobile app. There is a one-time charge for the app, which covers the cost of development and maintenance to provide this resource to the dental community.

Have A Laugh: Carved Watermelon...

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.