

The Winning Ticket

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Introduction

Because I understand that your smile can profoundly affect your self-confidence, self esteem as well as your health, the focus of my practice from the beginning has been to enhance lives and smiles. That's the reason I chose to volunteer for the Give Back a Smile program. This very successful initiative sponsored by the AACD, of which I am a member, has allowed many victims of domestic violence to regain their dignity and sense of self worth and to feel hopeful for the future.

Over the last year, I donated my services to include an array of restorative and prosthetic treatment resulting in a smile enhancement, to help a survivor put her life back together. Though the bruises fade, shattered smiles are a traumatic reminder and every mirror can become another painful emotional blow. Finding the self-confidence to apply for a job or to return to school to build a better life can seem an insurmountable obstacle.

I have been privileged to see the transformative effects of cosmetic dentistry in my practice. It is so rewarding to see patients for whom virtually every aspect of their life has been greatly improved once they can greet the world with a beautiful smile.

It was my pleasure to restore this broken smile and help her begin to mend her broken life.



Figure 1: Preoperative full facial view reluctant to smile.



Figure 2: Full facial view smile shows carious compromised smile.

The First Encounter

Our patient's first visit started with a warm welcome by my entire team. Ursula and her sister-in-law, who drove her the 100 mile journey, were given a tour of the office and after the completion of the needed paperwork, I met our patient.

As I started the interviewing process, (Figure 1-2), it was obvious that she was withdrawn, nervous, shy, and there was little if any eye contact. "Know thy patient" as I was taught at the Pankey Institute. It was

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Figure 3: Patients preoperative smile.



Figure 4: Retracted view displaying multiple carious and hopeless teeth.

difficult to get Ursula to converse but when I asked her what she would like to accomplish at the completion of her dental care she said, "I want to smile again".

"One thing that I remember distinctly, said Ursula, was when Dr. Mohr asked me if I had won a million dollars in the lottery, what would I do with it? My response was to fix my teeth. He then replied "today is your lucky day".

The clinical exam revealed multiple carious and periodontally hopeless teeth as well as a deep bite (Figures 3-6). The lower anterior teeth occluded on the palatal tissue when she was in occlusion. She was missing her lower first molars bilaterally, and #11 and 12 were broken to the tissue level, as they had been knocked out, according to our patient. She had heavy supra and subgingival calculus.

Her medical status was non contributory and a TMJ and oral cancer screening was also performed.

It was explained to Ursula, that we would need to take a variety of diagnostic records to develop a treatment plan for her. With that said and her consent, a full mouth series of x-rays, digital photos, bite registration with Flexitime (Heraeus Kulzer, Southbend Indiana), Slidematic face bow (Whip Mix, Louisville, KY) and Identical alginate impressions (Dux Dental, Oxnard, CA) were performed. Upon completion, my clinical assistants reassured Ursula that the outcome would make the trip, and all the procedures to come, worthwhile.

Treatment Plan

After evaluating all the diagnostic records, I spoke with my surgical team, (Drs. Elliot Siegel and Tom Cerbone) as



Figure 5: Mandibular arch with heavy supra and subgingival calculus.



Figure 6: Retracted maxillary teeth to be extracted.

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well as Jim Cain of Keating Dental Arts Laboratory, who were gracious to offer their services to Ursula. The overall treatment plan included :

- Extractions of all maxillary teeth.
- Fabrication of an immediate full upper denture with Blue Line Teeth (Ivoclar, Amherst, NY).
- Periodontal therapy to the mandibular teeth provided by our hygienist utilizing American Eagle Instruments (Missoula, MT), Parkell Turbo Sensor Ultra Sonic Scaler (Parkell Inc. Edgewood, NY), Oraquix (Dentsply Pharmaceutical, York, PA), Enamel Pro prophylactic paste with ACP (Premier Dental, Plymouth Meeting, PA) and 2% Neutral Sodium Fluoride (Zila Pharmaceuticals, Inc, Fort Collins, CO).
- Composite restorations where needed... Premise, ObtiBond Solo Plus adhesive (Kerr, Orange, CA), Venus Diamond, iBond adhesive (Heraeus Kulzer, South Bend Indiana), Compositight 3D™ with Slick Band™ Matrices

(Garrison Dental Solutions, Spring Lake, Michigan), Jiffy Composite Polishing Brushes (Ultradent Products, South Jordan, UT).

- The placement of 4 BIOMET 3i Implants (BIOMET 3i, Palm Beach Gardens, FL)
- Fabrication of a maxillary over-denture with Blue Line Teeth (Ivoclar, Amherst, NY), on 4 locator implant abutments (Zest Anchors, Escondido, CA)

The Journey Begins

With each appointment, Ursula kept thanking us for our willingness to provide the dental care she so much needed and it was at each visit that a relationship was developing. The shy, timid, and nervous person began to develop a friendship with my

staff and myself. Each visit was more of a social visit than a dental appointment.

The immediate full upper began the transformation. Her self confidence and esteem began to emerge. Although strange at first, she became accustomed to her full upper denture. After the needed healing time from the extractions, 4 BIOMET 3i Osseo-Tite Tapered Certain implants were placed by the Oral Surgeons and her full upper denture soft-lined. The months ahead were uneventful and dur-



Figure 7: Open tray transfer impression with 2 viscosities of Aquasil Ultra Smart Wetting® Impression Material (Dentsply Caulk, York, PA)



Figure 8: Implants with locators in place.

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Figure 9: Postoperative view showing her new smile



Figure 10: What a difference a smile makes!

“I can only say that each time I smile, I will remember that it is only possible because of what you did for me.”

appointments and concluded with the try in of the tooth set up. Once Ursula approved this phase, the over-denture was to be completed. I assured her that she would be done before the Christmas Holiday as she was hoping to have her new smile to display with her family and friends.

I have a New Smile!

Upon the placement of the locators (Figure 8) and the insertion of the over-denture, (Figure 9), Ursula was given the mirror to view the result of a year plus journey.

“Through this process, although tedious at times, I thanked Dr Mohr for his generosity, kindness, dedication and professionalism and his staff including the surgeons Drs. Siegel and Cerbone. Their teamwork and dedication has enabled me to feel confident and willing to possibly pursue the field as a dental technician. I would also like to be of service to someone less fortunate someday. I am honored to have met all of you and appreciate with all my heart what you have done for me. I can only say that each time I smile, I will remember

that it is only possible because of what you did for me.”

Compassion... Dedication...Excellence

As stated on our website...Welcome to dentistry done differently! When Ursula visited our office, she noticed right away that we're not your typical dental practice. My team and I are devoted to exceeding patient's expectations on all fronts. We combine compassion, dedication, and excellence to deliver a five-star dental experience that will truly give the patient something worth smiling about. A picture is worth a thousand words (Figure 10). ♦

Acknowledgments

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ing this time, Ursula would see our hygienist for her periodontal maintenance.

After the uncovering of the implants, we began the final leg of this journey. An open tray impression (Figure 7), was taken followed by the records