Complex reconstruction changes a patient’s life

By Jim Arnold, DDS

After years of not smiling and experiencing pain with chewing at every meal, Carmen decided to do something significant to change her life.

My team and I were excited to meet her because we knew that our work could help give her the smile, comfort and dental health she had always wanted.

Carmen had seen examples of our work on our website, so she felt confident that she was coming to the right place for her care. Despite her confidence in us, however, she was still nervous about having major dental work done.

We did everything we could to relieve her anxiety and make the process as easy and comfortable as possible.

Patient history
Several teeth had been broken because of abuse from a former boyfriend, and she had severe dental pain due to the trauma and resulting malocclusion. Carmen had been a model as a teenager, but she had rarely smiled since the teeth had been broken (Fig. 1a).

In fact, she was so self-conscious that she rarely opened her mouth in public, and she never showed her teeth in photographs.

After eight years of living with little hope, she hoped to regain her smile, self-confidence and faith in people because of her experience with us.

She cried with gratitude when I told her that we could help her to regain the confidence, chewing and a photo directory of the speakers.

*Speakers are subject to change.

(Source: AACD)

Collaborate at 2011 AACD

For the 27th consecutive year, the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD) will assemble the world’s premier program of cosmetic dental educators. The 27th annual AACD Scientific Session, “The Rise of Collaboration,” will take place in historic Boston from May 18–21.

The focus will be on integrated, side-by-side learning for the entire dental team.

“Collaboration is the key to success on the modern dental team,” said AACD President Hugh Flax, DDS, of Atlanta.

“In order for dentists, technicians and team member to provide the comprehensive oral health care today’s patients demand, dental professionals must develop and refine their skills together.”

Collaborative learning in Boston
During the scientific session, attendees will learn the latest advancements in cosmetic dentistry through a variety of mediums intended to provide an in-depth, revolutionized learning experience.

Emerging technologies, new clinical techniques, team-based courses and practice management strategies are the basis for the world’s premier cosmetic dental continuing education event.

Large-scale lectures offer a multi-disciplinary approach to continuing education and a broad perspective on evolving treatment techniques in cosmetic dentistry.

The AACD’s in-depth, hands-on workshops are in high demand as attendees work one-on-one with esteemed educators alongside their colleagues. Materials and supplies are provided through corporate support.

Featured educators include:
- Guiseppe Allais
- Stephen Chu, DMD
- Newton Fahl, DDS
- Willi Geller
- Harald Heymann, DDS, Med
- Frank Spear, DDS, MSD
- Dennis Tarnow, DDS
- Dennis Wells, DDS

AACDCOnference.com launched registration and detailed event information for exhibitors and attendees is now available online at www.aacdconference.com.

Highlights of the redesigned AACD conference home page include streamlined navigation, real-time updates of course content and a photo directory of the speakers.
TV weatherman gets a smile makeover

By Fred Michmershuizen, Online Editor

Dr. Robin Rutherford, a cosmetic dentist with a practice called The Art of Dentistry located in Odessa, Texas, recently provided a smile makeover for Greg Morgan, a local TV meteorologist. The dental work was explained to viewers during a series that aired on CBS 7 News.

Viewers were able to witness one step of the dental treatment plan the time—from the initial examination to the completed transformation.

Before the procedure, Morgan spoke of his love for making a difference in people’s lives through laughter, but he also said he felt something was missing. “If I could feel more comfortable with the way I smile, I could just do my job that much better,” Morgan told PWRWEB.

In the final installment of the series, Morgan’s new smile was revealed. He said that his favorite part about the whole process was enjoying the reactions he received to his new look.

During the series, Rutherford was able to showcase the experience he gained while traveling the United States studying with a number of leading cosmetic dentists practicing in the field today.

With access to such a wide base of knowledge, Rutherford said, he is able to provide comprehensive, quality dental care for nearly any patient regardless of the type of procedure required.

Rutherford works with a wide variety of techniques, which often include procedures such as dental implants or porcelain veneers.

Rutherford said the overall ease of the process was portrayed through Morgan’s upbeat personality and sense of humor as he was seen sharing his personal experience with viewers until the final smile was revealed. “Changing your smile can change your life,” Rutherford said.

The series aired every morning and evening for an entire week in the spring of 2010.

“Having the opportunity to showcase the experience and technique he gained while traveling with a number of leading cosmetic dentists, Rutherford was able to provide comprehensive, quality dental care for nearly any patient regardless of the type of procedure required. Rutherford works with a wide variety of techniques, which often include procedures such as dental implants or porcelain veneers. Rutherford said the overall ease of the process was portrayed through Morgan’s upbeat personality and sense of humor as he was seen sharing his personal experience with viewers until the final smile was revealed. “Changing your smile can change your life,” Rutherford said.”
The full-mouth Luxatemp mock-up also served as an ideal intraoral preparation guide so that depth cuts could be made into the Luxatemp and tooth structure. This allowed us to maintain even reduction and ideal orientation within the arch form. We segmentally prepared all maxillary teeth, making bite registrations (LuxaBite, Zenith/DMG) for the anterior, right side and left side, allowing us to maintain the new vertical dimension that had been established with the mock-up.

After the maxillary preparations were completed, we checked the preparation shades, took photographs and made a maxillary final impression.

We used the Sil-Tech stint to make ideal temporaries, and the CEJ-to-CEJ measurements and tooth lengths were again verified.

Sequential bite registration records were again used while preparing the lower arch for the anterior and both posterior sections.

We systematically recorded the relationship from the lower to upper preparations and the lower preparations to the upper temporaries. This helped to ensure that all models could be easily cross-mounted by the laboratory and that the new vertical dimension was maintained.

We made the mandibular impression and temporized #21–#29 with Luxatemp. We then recorded the maxillary preparations and the mandibular temporaries. After temporarily cementing the maxillary temps, we recorded the bite relationship between the upper and lower temps.

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