

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:

Shark from the "Finding Nemo" movie...
page 3

COMPLEX CASES:

Dr. Maratta's Specialized Training & Skill Help with Patients in These Situations...
page 4

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Do you have a patient with a denture that doesn't fit or looks old?



Before



After

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 rehabilitation with the assistance of an advanced Prosthodontist.

Read more on the next page...

◆ Do you want another opinion on a complex case? Or to talk 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 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.

Prosthodontic Publication

Want to see recent issues?

Stay informed on new findings and best practices for cosmetic and restorative dentistry. See more examples of complex cases online at:

AdvancedProsthodontist.com
/ Maratta



CASE SUMMARY: Difficult Custom Denture

by Francesco P. Maratta, DMD, FACP, *Board Certified Prosthodontist*

Patient “Susan” was frustrated with her old dentures. At 60 years young, she was supposed to be enjoying her life. But she was very self-conscious in public settings, especially when eating with friends. She had to hold her lips tight for fear her dentures would fall out, and they were not comfortable when chewing. These problems are actually very common with edentulous patients as many dentures do not fit properly or look

esthetically pleasing. Your patients who have dentures may not voice these concerns, but if you ask them, they will tell you what lack of proper fit, function, or esthetics means to them.

Susan was referred to me by another dental professional in the area who was busy with their patient load, and Susan’s needs were more complex than they wanted to manage. Besides being unhappy with the retention of several previous dentures, she also had a high-demand for esthetics.

I met with Susan at her initial consultation to discuss her situation, then had her come back to do a comprehensive exam, including a full scan with the intraoral camera in my office. **As a prosthodontist**, I am comfortable with complex cases, including patients with high esthetic demands. Susan felt comfortable knowing that I frequently work on complicated dental issues, and have developed protocols to ensure proper fit and function along with the highest esthetic outcome of the restoration.

The treatment sequence for Susan included the following:

- To improve fit, I used a custom tray & plaster impression technique.
- I then used a custom stained injected resin base.
- For teeth, I used Physiodens by Vita.

What made this case challenging was that Susan had limited remaining teeth on the mandible, making balanced occlusion difficult to achieve. Also, Susan did not want a thick buccal flange to limit the amount of lip support. Susan was thrilled with her new appearance and fit of the custom dentures.



Before



After

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 this example, please email me at:

nhpros@att.net

◆ Do you have a patient in Susan’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

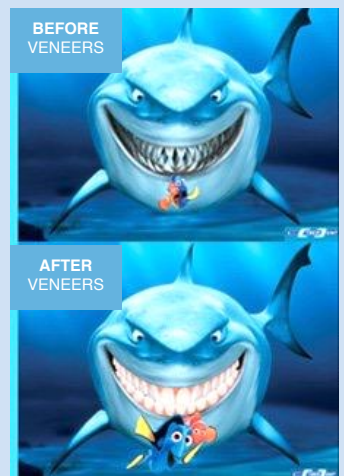
You can accomplish the same thing with either the free website or the mobile app. There is a one-time charge for the app, which covers the cost of development and maintenance to provide this resource to the dental community.

◆ Have A Laugh: Shark from the “Finding Nemo” movie...

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.

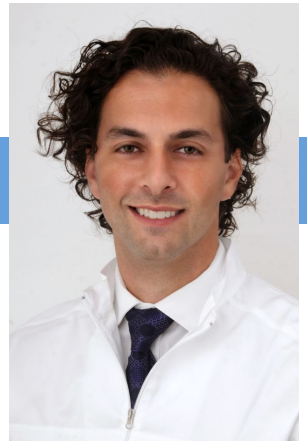
I specialize in the treatment of complex cases, usually involving several procedures over months of care. The next time you see a challenging case, please feel free to call me and we can discuss treatment planning or I can help you with any part of the treatment.

My goal is to be a resource for your office by helping manage difficult and time-consuming procedures, restoring the function and esthetics that the patient desires, then referring them back to your office for their ongoing care.



Dr. Frank Maratta

DMD, FACP, Prosthodontist ♦ The Complex Case Specialist™



Dr. Frank Maratta is a Board Certified Prosthodontist and works with dental professionals from all areas of New Haven County to restore the smiles and confidence of patients facing a difficult diagnosis.

About New Haven Prosthodontics:

New Haven Prosthodontics is Dr. Maratta's specialty practice limited to fixed and removable prosthodontics, implant prosthodontics, and all phases of esthetic dentistry. Dr. Maratta is Board Certified by the American Board of Prosthodontics, and a Fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists. Dr. Maratta's board-certified prosthodontic training and private practice experience make treatments of complex cases more successful, including:

- 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. Dr. Maratta's skill allows him to do this, along with digital imaging for accurate placement of implants and his in-house lab to quickly make beautiful crowns.
- 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!"

Protho Pledge

When your patient is referred:

- ✓ I will only treat what's been referred.
- ✓ I will send you updates.
- ✓ I will be part of your team, not take over your patients.

◆ Why other dental professionals work with a Board Certified Prosthodontist

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

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

Examples include patients with vertical dimension discrepancies, severely resorbed ridges, inadequate interarch space, 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, Board Certified Prosthodontists can 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. Board Certified Prosthodontists are 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.

Board Certified Prosthodontists 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 a Board Certified Prosthodontist for complex implant-supported restorations. They can work with you or complete the treatment for you to achieve the best in both function and esthetics.