

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:

The Grinch Smile Makeover... **page 3**

COMPLEX CASES:

Dr. Chao's Specialized Training & Skills Make These Treatments More Successful... **page 4**

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Do You Have a Patient With High Esthetic Demands?



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 concern with the appearance of their smile—they may be a candidate for oral rehabilitation or esthetic enhancements with the assistance of an advanced Prosthodontist.

Read more on the next page...

◆ 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: Pink Composite to Mask Surgical Defects

by Dr. Maggie Chao, Prosthodontist

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

Important background for this case included:

- Implants for 10 years to replace **congenitally missing teeth**.
- A bone infection that was so great the surgeon had difficulty grafting it.
- Beth came to my office after the implants were placed and ready to restore (fig. 1-3).

As a prosthodontist, I am comfortable with complex cases, including patients with high esthetic demands. Beth felt comfortable knowing that I frequently work on complicated dental issues, and have developed protocols to ensure the highest esthetic outcome of the restoration.

I used bonding to idealize the size of the missing tooth spaces, with these treatment notes:

- Pink composite to mask the missing gum tissue (fig. 4).
- White to make the lateral spaces smaller (fig. 4).

Beth was happy :)

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, please email me at:
drchao@pleasantonpros.com



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3



fig. 4

◆ Do you have a patient in Beth’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

◆ Have A Laugh: The Grinch Smile Makeover...

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. Maggie T. Chao

DMD, Prosthodontist ♦ The Complex Case Specialist™



Dr. Maggie Chao works with dental professionals near the Pleasanton and Walnut Creek areas to restore the smiles and confidence of patients facing a difficult diagnosis.

About Pleasanton Prosthodontics:

Pleasanton Prosthodontics is a specialty practice limited to fixed and removable prostheses, dental implants, and all phases of esthetic dentistry. Dr. Chao's prosthodontic training and private practice 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.
- 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 reconstruction 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!”

Prostho 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 Certified Prosthodontist

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, 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.