

Advances In Prosthodontics™

New Findings & Best Practices for Cosmetic & Restorative Dentistry

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Do You Have a Patient With Severe Dental Phobia?



Here's the story of a patient who was referred from another dental professional...

Working with this patient has been one of the most fulfilling experiences I've had in dentistry. It's quite a long story, but I'll try to give you the quick version. The summary is that with careful listening, thoughtful case planning, and some flexibility, many of the patients who believe they cannot tolerate dental care or insist they will always "hate the dentist" can not only have effective care but be transformed into relaxed, trusting, content patients. If you have a patient with several missing, broken or severely worn teeth — they may be a candidate for an 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 / Jacobs



CASE SUMMARY: Restoring the Severe Dental Phobic Patient, A Success Story

by Bryan Jacobs, DMD, MS, *Board Certified Prosthodontist*

Patient “Debra” was referred to me by an endodontist. After years of neglect due to fear, her dental pain was so severe she sought emergency care and ended up at an endodontic office. She had, somewhat amazingly, made provisional restorations for herself with over-the-counter materials as various teeth broke and/or restorations were lost (Figure 2).

Her needs were not endodontic in nature, and the specialist who saw her warned me that she had some of the most significant fear and anxiety of any patient she had met. Prior to her first visit with me, Debra insisted I speak with her therapist to better understand her personality and fears. I of course did this, and then arranged to see Debra in a non-clinical conference room. The plan was only to talk that day, and we had a long and honest discussion.

Over the next couple visits, with the help of an anxiolytic, Debra was able to sit for prosthetic records and a number of treatment plans were formulated. These ranged from a full mouth fixed rehabilitation (saving as many teeth as possible) to more basic plans.

Based on Debra’s timing needs and the prognosis of her teeth, she selected a plan that included the following:

- The maxilla would be treated with full arch extractions, immediate placement of five implants, and immediate loading with a fixed provisional. The final restoration would be full-arch zirconia.
- The mandibular arch would be treated by removing and grafting #18 and #19, followed by implant replacement after healing. Fixed restorations would also be placed at #'s 20, 21 (per patient esthetic request) and #'s 24, 27 (teeth that had lost previous restorations).

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 (or even a patient’s therapist, such as in this case).

Continued on next page...



Figure 1 - Before



Figure 2 — One of her homemade temporary restorations

Final photos on next page...

◆ Do you have a patient in Debra’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.

Figures 3, 4, 5 — 3Shape radiographs



As the treatment plan was carried out, the remarkable part is how Debra's outlook on dentistry began to morph. Her first treatment appointment was for the maxillary full-arch, which she did with oral conscious sedation. That evening and the following morning, she had almost no pain but was convinced the provisional teeth needed to be removed, i.e. that there was no way she could ever adapt to them. Through a series of phone conversations and office visits, she came to understand why certain aspects were necessary for the provisional (for example, bulky acrylic and flattened occlusion) and with each passing visit, she became noticeably less anxious. She began to become more social, comment how others around her noticed her smiling, and came in relaxed. By the time we moved to placing the mandibular implants in the healed ridge, she required no anxiolytic or sedation, was open to hearing the details of the treatment, and absolutely a joy to work with. Her entire overall persona had changed.

Now, this change was not overnight. Her treatment took place over the course of approximately a year. But with incremental steps and a respect for her need to proceed cautiously at first, a foundation of trust was built. And while the dentistry was interesting, seeing the change in Debra was the most impactful part.

So, why share this? Two reasons: I want to encourage you that when you have those patients who seem impossibly phobic, there is hope. Secondly, if working with these types of patients is outside of your comfort, I am always willing to partner with you in their care, or even just provide some suggestions. All patients — phobic, anxious, or similar — deserve the same standard of care as the “easy” patients. It's worth the patient approach.

Figures 6, 7 — Smile comparison



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 / questions about this example, or my prosthodontic protocols, please email me:

bryanjacobs@dentalprofessionals.com



Figure 8 - After

◆ How can a Board Certified Prosthodontist assist you and your dental team?

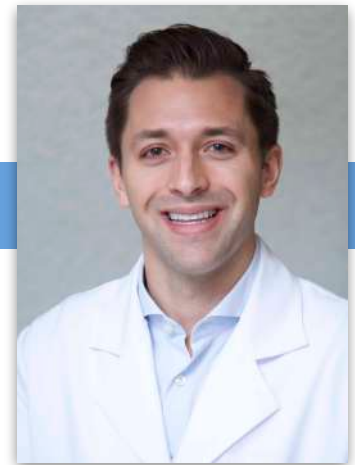
I specialize in the treatment of complex cases, usually involving several procedures over months of care.

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. Bryan Jacobs

DMD, MS, Prosthodontist ♦ The Complex Case Specialist™



About Dr. Jacobs' specialization:

As a Prosthodontist, Dr. Bryan Jacobs specializes in fixed and removable prostheses, dental implants, and all phases of esthetic dentistry. Dr. Jacobs is Board Certified by the American Board of Prosthodontics. His 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.
- 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 and esthetics.

Dr. Bryan Jacobs practices prosthodontics at Dental Professionals in Chicago and Skokie, working with GP's and other dental specialists to restore the smiles and confidence of patients facing a difficult diagnosis.

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!"

Dr. Jacobs' online referral form at: DentalProfessionals.com/referring-doctors

Protho Pledge

When your patient is referred:

- ✓ I will only treat what your patient needs.
- ✓ 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 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. 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.