Facial esthetics and self-esteem are important attributes in a society that puts a high value on appearance and poise. Successful communication at the family, community and business level requires face-to-face interaction. Key elements to this interaction are the mouth and the smile. Because a primary mode of this form of contact is speech, the mouth draws special attention during conversation.

A healthy, bright and attractive smile is a welcoming invitation to happy and stress free conversation. The opposite is true with oral debilitation. Decayed and missing teeth are visible deterrents when focusing on important personal or business communication. Unattractive odors that accompany poor oral health.

The position of the teeth in the jaw plays a major role in the appearance of the smile. Narrow arches or missing molars can create black triangles between the corner of the lips when laughing or smiling. These dark corners serve as unattractive focal points.

When extensive debilitation is present, traditional dental restoration may be either ineffective for the long-term or very costly in time, finances and patient comfort. The time and cost alone for one arch of 14 teeth that requires endodontic therapy, post and core restoration,
ceramic or ceramometal crowns, possible periodontal surgery, and perhaps extensive orthodontic treatment is expensive, and the longevity of teeth weakened with root canals and posts is minimal. Periodontal response to extensive restorative treatment is also a consideration. 

The diagnosis of advanced oral debilitation with many of these conditions indicates that dental implant treatment is an ideal solution. The following is a clinical report of a 31 year-old mother who used the Internet to find solutions for her debilitated dental condition, which affected her general health and self esteem. Megan presented with wide spread decay, severe bad breath, bleeding gums, and fractured and missing teeth. Her poor esthetics and bad breath led to psychological and emotional issues preventing her from effective social interaction and job security. Because of her

The poor esthetics and bad breath led to psychological and emotional issues preventing her from effective social interaction and job security.
extensive dental debilitation, the patient’s Chicago area dentist suggested full mouth extractions and the construction of upper and lower dentures. Megan became even more emotionally distressed at the thought of wearing dentures for the rest of her life.

At Prosthodontics Intermedica in Fort Washington, a comprehensive evaluation of her medical and dental history was undertaken. Clinical and radiographic evaluation was performed and the treatment options for improving her smile and chewing ability were discussed. Megan was very excited about the prospects of having permanent teeth. The treatment plan recommended extraction of all of the maxillary teeth with the placement of implants to immediately support a complete maxillary implant reconstruction.

The mandibular posterior teeth were in need of treatment as well. The lower right first molar needed to be extracted and that tooth was replaced with a traditional 3-unit fixed bridge. Four other mandibular posterior teeth were restored using conventional crown and bridge. Two molars needed endodontic therapy.

While Megan was asleep, the maxillary arch was restored using the TEETH IN A DAY™ protocol immediately following extraction of the severely decayed teeth. Ten implants were placed and a fixed interim acrylic prosthesis was fabricated immediately following surgery. The patient functioned with this restoration for five months, until the final porcelain fused to gold reconstruction was fabricated and delivered.

To enhance the thrill of new teeth, Megan had two separate days of beauty treatment; one following the stage one surgery and one following delivery of the final prosthesis. The beauty treatment included a haircut, styling, makeup, a manicure and consultation designed to renew her appearance and self-esteem. The complete makeover is the wave of the future. The American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery predicts that in 2004 most postsurgical patients will be referred for make-up, hairstyling, and cosmetic

The maxillary arch was restored using the TEETH IN A DAY™ protocol immediately following extraction of the severely decayed teeth.

![Before treatment front views demonstrate severe decay and missing teeth.](image1.png)

After Teeth In A Day™ treatment, a healthy smile with bright teeth. (image2.png)
Megan enjoys the Phillies at Veteran’s Stadium the day after Teeth In A Day™ surgery.

The TEETH IN A DAY™ treatment cured Megan’s bad breath, eliminated her pain, and replaced her unattractive teeth with a charming smile, completely infection free and totally functional. The enormous improvements in her chewing ability resulted in better nutrition and vastly improved her systemic health.

While the esthetic issues were the driving force for this patient, health and function were the prime objectives of the treatment presented. Megan’s restored self esteem has enabled her to go for a job interview without having to be concerned about her appearance or offensive mouth odors.

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Pre-op panoramic radiograph shows rampant decay

Post-op Cephalometric radiograph

Post-op panoramic radiograph with implant supported prosthesis in place
Many people think of makeovers as being purely elective and driven only by vanity and esthetic issues. Reality suggests that the improvement of self esteem is what actually allows patients to enjoy life more fully. Completely restored, Megan is attending the university program of her dreams, exploring the Pacific seas. She has successfully renewed her relationship with an old friend and is on the threshold of a completely positive future.

Making a difference in Megan’s life and following her smile through its achievements is the reward of a good dental “team.” When the patient is not simply a chart, we effectively communicate both skill and energy. This is an important part of the treatment plan.

Mrs. Susan Wolfinger gives Megan a stylish new hair-do as part of her esthetic makeover.
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By Thomas Balshi, DDS, William Becker, DDS, Edmond Bedrossian, DDS, Peter Wohrle, DMD

Manicured nails make Megan smile

Immediately after lightening haircolor

New smile, new hair style

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