Radical makeovers of our bodies or our environments have become a fixture of the new century. But many factors can influence any individual’s decision to seek out and embrace this dramatic form of self-improvement. In the following case study, the patient had reached mid-life before a dental crisis started him down the path to a profound physical transformation.

For most of his life, Bill had avoided any significant dental problems. He’d never endured chronic tooth pain or the embarrassment of discolored or unsightly teeth; he’d never undergone lengthy treatment. He did have physical problems, however, including a heart murmur and high blood pressure. Thirty years of smoking more than a pack of cigarettes each day had also compromised his cardiovascular system. At 53, Bill finally underwent a triple-bypass surgery, after which his doctor had prescribed a blood thinner. According to Bill, “the prescribed medications caused a loosening of his teeth,” with ensuing bone loss and dental abscesses. As Bill’s ability to
Bill returned to Prosthodontics Intermedica for another comprehensive prosthodontic evaluation. His prosthodontist recommended extraction of all of his teeth, while his periodontist suggested that a few teeth might be saved and used to fabricate a tooth-supported restoration.

Due to the advanced bone loss and tooth mobility, Bill was told that conventional treatment would be too unpredictable. He opted to have all his teeth removed. Since he felt that financial restraints wouldn’t permit him to replace all his teeth with implants immediately, Bill chose, instead to receive Teeth in a Day™ in his lower jaw, while having a denture created for the upper jaw.

At the time of extraction, all the soft tissue and abscesses were removed from the tooth sockets. Seven Brånemark implants (Nobel Biocare, Yorba Linda, California) were then immediately placed in the lower jaw, and a Teeth in a Day™ prosthesis was
created to fit on top of them. Bill went home that day wearing an immediate complete upper denture. In the days that followed, he reported very little pain or discomfort and only minimal swelling. Three months later, he received permanent versions of both the denture and the implant-supported prosthesis.

“The lower jaw restoration felt just like my own teeth,” Bill recounts. “I was thrilled.” In fact, he felt so enthusiastic about the initial change in his appearance that he consulted a plastic surgeon. He had become dissatisfied with excess facial tissue that he felt made him look tired and older than his years. He subsequently had a face lift, brow lift and eye lid lift, along with placement of a chin implant to enhance his jaw line.

Although delighted with his new appearance and implant-supported teeth, Bill found the upper denture to be uncomfortable despite numerous adjustments and efforts to reline it. He finally concluded that replacing the upper denture with implant-supported teeth was no longer something he could regard as a luxury; it had become a necessity. A new Nobel Biocare surgical protocol – Teeth in an Hour™ – had just become available. This type of treatment allows patients to receive their implants and new teeth in about 35 minutes, versus the two to three hours required by the Teeth in a Day™
procedure. Moreover, the patient leaves the prosthodontic office with a reinforced definitive prosthesis. This is all made possible due to the use of pre-surgical three-dimensional computer planning that allows for the fabrication of a highly precise definitive restoration in advance of the surgery.

Informed about this opportunity, Bill was eager to proceed. Since his upper denture looked good, an impression of it was made, and a clear copy of it was fabricated. Numerous radio-opaque markers were then placed within the clear denture. With that denture in the mouth, a CT scan was taken. Another scan was taken of the clear denture itself.

Working on a computer, these scans were aligned using the radio-opaque markers, and the surgeon determined exactly how the implants needed to be placed in order to achieve the best possible esthetic result. This information was then sent by modem to Nobel Biocare in Sweden where a computer guided the machining of a surgical guide that would help guarantee proper implant placement.

On the day of surgery, 20cc of blood were drawn and platelet-rich plasma (PRP, Harvest Technology) was harvested from the blood. Applying the platelet-rich plasma to the surgical area has been shown to expedite
The Institute For Facial Esthetics
Continuing Education
Traditional 2-Stage Implant Protocol and
1-Stage TEETH IN A DAY™
Featuring the Brånemark System®
Co-sponsored by Nobel Biocare USA, Inc. *

Course Dates:
September 20, 21, 22, 2004
January 17, 18, 19, 2005
April 11, 12, 13, 2005
September 12, 13, 14, 2005

Time:
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Lunch 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Tuition: $1800

Location:
Institute for Facial Esthetics
467 Pennsylvania Avenue #201
Fort Washington, PA 19034

Faculty:
Thomas J. Balshi, DDS, FACP
Glenn J. Wolfinger, DMD, FACP
Robert Winkelman, CDT, MDT

Credits: Eligible for 24 hours of continuing education credit

Educational Objectives: To teach and demonstrate the effect of osseointegrated dental implants on facial esthetics and general patient well-being; To provide clinical instruction and hands-on implant training; To provide clinical patient management before, during, and after dental implant rehabilitation; To provide post-prosthesis maintenance via home and professional oral hygiene.

Course Content: Includes the fundamentals of implant surgery and prosthetics, patient selection, treatment planning, drape and anesthesia, evaluation of implant sites, bone preservation, site preparation, implant placement, surgical closure, abutment connection, loading of implants, post-op instructions. Special considerations include graft areas, anatomic defects, immediate extractions sites, delayed extraction sites, complications, preventing and solving problems, TEETH IN A DAY™ and Teeth In An Hour™ for the maxilla and mandible and the philosophy of ultimate dental/facial makeovers.

Teaching Methods: Lectures, slides, videos, hands-on surgical and prosthetic procedures. Live surgery observed.

Seminar Includes: Certificate of attendance, course materials, lunch and refreshments.

* Nobel Biocare is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider. The formal continuing education programs of this sponsor are accepted by the AGD for Fellowship/Mastership credit. Participants are eligible for 24 hours of continuing education credit. Continuing education credits issued for participation in this CE activity may not apply towards license renewal in all States.

For more information or to register:
call 215-643-5881 or fax 215-643-1149

The Institute For Facial Esthetics Reserves the right to cancel the course at any time with no responsibility other than full refund of tuition paid. No refunds made within 48 hours of the course.
Four dental implant specialists explain dental implant treatment step by step, in a first-of-its-kind book. Among the topics the authors cover: Who is a candidate for implants?, the advantages of implants, how implants are surgically placed, how to find a qualified dentist, and follow-up care. The book is loaded with before and after photos of patients.

By Thomas Balshi, DDS, William Becker, DDS, Edmond Bedrossian, DDS, Peter Wohrle, DMD

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This book can be ordered from Prosthodontics Intermedica, Fort Washington, PA.