



The Penchas Update

A Decade of Supporting the Complex Prosthetic and Implant patients

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CASE OF THE MONTH: Rampant Decay - Not typical cosmetic dentistry

Fluoride and oral hygiene awareness have reduced the countries Caries index. Whether poor oral hygiene, "Mountain Dew Mouth" or "Meth Mouth", Rampant decay is still seen in Texas. In many cases it is severe in nature. Treatment of patients with these problems is more difficult because rapid and decisive treatment is needed before the patient is lost due to the transient lifestyle. Usually, there are multiple medical issues as well as the increased legal risk. Interestingly, severe bruxism is seen in many of the patients, and may be caused by the medication or drug being used. It is very important to try and preserve the little occlusal information that exists. This will allow the dentist to plan the correct placement of the teeth in the prosthetic restoration. The vertical dimension is a difficult and important factor in the success of the future prosthesis. It would be my pleasure to help you with your patient.



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1 Severe loss of vertical dimension is seen in this view. Restoration of the vertical occlusion is one of the difficult aspects of treating these young patients.

2 Palatal view shows the rapid, deep decay pathognomonic for rampant decay. This is different than radiation caries.

3 Mandibular view

4 Frontal view shows a pleasing smile-line

5,6 Before and after treatment. Rapid successful treatment is important due to the transitory and urgent needs of patients who present with this type of decay. Lengthy treatment usually fails due to compliance issues.



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