



RESTORING CONGENTIALLY MISSING TEETH

Anything is possible

Born with a rare genetic disorder, she assumed she had to live with missing and misshapen teeth—until a treatment plan opened the door to a new life.

Renee had only ever known one way to smile.
Lips clasped tightly together, both corners
of her mouth forced upward.



BEFORE



Despite practicing good oral hygiene, she was born with a condition that led to missing and misshapen teeth during adulthood.

As far back as she could remember, she was used to people taking her aside and asking if something was wrong after they saw the tension in her smile. She would have to answer, and it was harder to hide her teeth when she spoke.

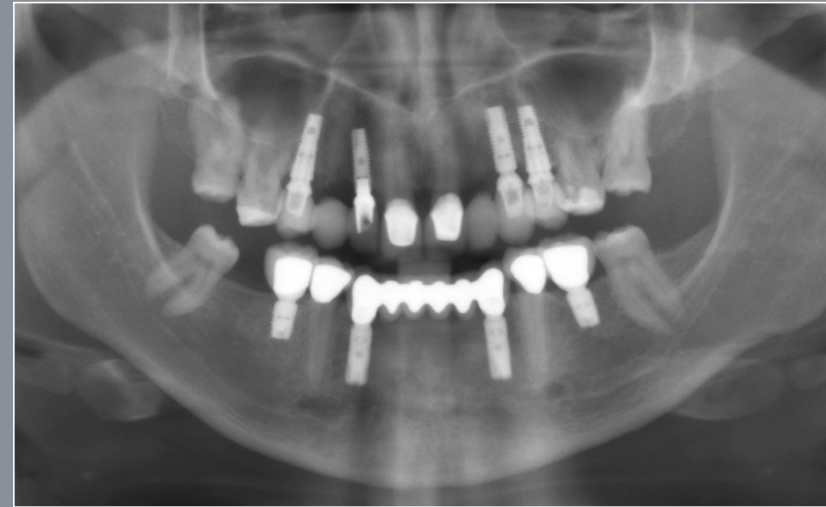
The thing was, Renee took care of her teeth. She brushed and flossed daily, and she went to the dentist every six months. Now 25 years old, she had no cavities or signs of gum disease. But several of her teeth were small or misshapen, and the spacing between her teeth was uneven, with unsightly gaps that left her gums exposed. Her bite had always been somewhat uncomfortable too.

“There were times I would break down crying,” she says. “I felt helpless. It just seemed so overwhelming.”

Renee was the only member of her family with dental problems, and she found it difficult to talk to anyone about how she felt about her teeth. That changed when she moved to another city for work and visited a new dentist, who referred her to a prosthodontist.



The prosthodontist developed a treatment plan to improve her smile and chewing ability. This included several crowns, fixed partial dentures, implants to support the dentures and crowns, and porcelain onlays.



“She made it a priority to help me understand what my options were,” Renee says. “I could visualize what was going to happen. It really helped me feel confident in the choice I made.”

Prosthodontists have advanced expertise in treatment planning for complex patient needs. The prosthodontist identified that Renee had a rare genetic disorder known as oligodontia, which is defined as missing six or more teeth from birth. It had nothing to do with faults in her oral hygiene.

The prosthodontist discussed several different treatment options with her. Renee chose a treatment plan that involved porcelain onlays on two of her rear teeth. An onlay is a partial crown that is made to fit on top of a tooth. The treatment plan also included four crowns and two implants, as well as three pairs of implants that would support three fixed partial dentures.

The prosthodontist began by extracting several of her teeth and then placing six dental implants – all in the same visit. Two pairs of implants would support fixed dentures in her upper jaw, while another pair of implants would support a fixed denture in her lower jaw.

The prosthodontist took care to ensure that the bone in Renee's jaw would be able to support the new implants. This was important to ensure the implants would be stable and secure in the bone, and also to ensure they would emerge from her gums at the right angle.

“This was a big step for me,” Renee says.

“I was nervous. But the fact that those dentures were ready after my surgery meant that my life changed after just one visit. Things started getting better right away.”

Not only were six of the implants placed immediately after the teeth were removed, but they were ready to support temporary fixed dentures right away. That meant fewer surgeries and less treatment time.

Her prosthodontist recommended a soft diet while the implants healed. At a subsequent visit, two more implants were placed, and Renee received temporary crowns and onlays. Impressions were made so the final teeth could be custom-designed for her.



Her teeth looked and felt wonderful.

It was only a matter of weeks after the initial surgery that she returned to complete her treatment. The final dentures, crowns, and onlays were delivered, each one designed specifically for her.

With the new teeth in place, her bite felt much more comfortable. And thanks to the esthetic training of the prosthodontist, the crowns, dentures, and onlays all shared the same natural color and shape.

What was once a complex and overwhelming condition had been resolved in one satisfying, harmonious outcome. Every part of the treatment plan came together to form a beautiful smile.

“I lived with that unhappiness for so many years, but I have so many more years ahead of me,” says Renee. “The worst thing you can do is decide that things can’t get better.”
