

A Lifelong Dream and a Carefully Designed Plan

By Sascha A. Jovanovic, DDS, MS

The patient, a 67-year-old woman, ran a small supermarket in an Italian village for most of her life. She had met the referring dentist, Dr. Francesco Mintrone, many years ago when he was still in high school. As the years passed and he went through dental school and postgraduate education, she confided to him more and more about her dental situation. When she retired from her business, she took the big step of visiting Dr. Mintrone in his office and having him evaluate her dental status in detail. She had seen another dentist for many years, but he had done only what was necessary to keep her pain-free.

The patient complained about an ill-fitting upper full denture and an uncomfortable lower removable partial denture. She had dreamed for many years of having a beautiful smile, with no removable appliance, and a natural-looking and healthy fixed dentition. She had heard about implants, but was always afraid to move forward with them. After an initial examination, Dr. Mintrone determined that she was an excellent candidate for implants and a fixed natural prosthesis. She overcame her fear and chose to move forward with implants because she had known Dr. Mintrone since his childhood.

Dr. Mintrone contacted me soon thereafter because we had worked together on other complex implant cases, and he familiarized me with the patient's condition and her wishes.

This case illustrates how a patient with a fundamentally challenging condition and a denture for many years can be brought back to full dental esthetics when the case is carefully analyzed and planned and treatment is executed to the best of our surgical and prosthetic abilities. It also demonstrates how the dental esthetic team can collaborate even in the smallest details before the surgery takes place, including giving the patient comprehensive insight into what to prepare for and what to expect.

At the end of the treatment, this patient achieved her dream—fixed implants in the upper and lower jaws, providing her with a wonderful and natural smile that enhanced her beautiful, warm personality.

For more information on the clinical aspects of this case, please turn to page 64.

Cover dentistry and clinical images: Sascha A. Jovanovic, DDS, MS (Los Angeles, CA) and Francesco Mintrone, DDS (Modena, Italy). The cover images were photographed with a Nikon D90 and D200 camera (Tokyo, Japan).



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Preoperative



Postoperative