



# NYCOMS NEWS

The New York Center for Orthognathic and Maxillofacial Surgery

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### Extreme Make-Overs at NYCOMS: Psycho-Social Impact of Orthognathic Surgery

Americans have been bombarded with reality T.V. shows that have left our society with a quest to try to achieve social acceptability by transforming our physical being. These shows often times leave us with a new hope, hope that since our outside is “new and improved” our lives will be enhanced because we become more loved by our families and society as a whole.

We must all view these programs with caution as to the “reality” behind what lies ahead for these patients. Across the board, the reasons patients seek corrective jaw surgery are strangely influenced by the quest to become made socially acceptable.

When looking at these cases of improved physical appearance, one must pause and reflect. The true value comes in assessing life quality long after the surgical phase is completed. This is clearly patient dependent and needs further study. NYCOMS has studied the reasons why patients seek corrective jaw surgery. We surveyed over 250 orthognathic patients that have been referred to the practice and asked them questions related to their skeletal deformity. We wanted to find out their primary motivation for treatment. Whether to improve their bite, appearance, smile, or to get rid of pain and improve speech, they simply did not know. Our results were fascinating. Over 75% of patients answered that their skeletal deformity affected their appearance; however, only 16% admitted that improving their appearance was their primary motivating factor for treatment. However, improving function across the board whether it was the bite or the speech was more of a motivating factor for these patients.

When observing these cases of improved physical appearance, one must pause and reflect on the true value of this improvement. What is the long-term quality of life after the surgical phase is completed? This is clearly patient dependent and requires further study.

## **Implant Advances at NYCOMS – NYCOMS Implant Program Integrates Cutting-Edge Technology with Quality Patient Care**

Over the last year, the NYCOMS Team has continued to expand its implant-related reconstructive services. Through our own continuing education and by sharing our protocols with others, we continue to hone our skills when teamed with our restorative dental colleagues. There are several areas that we would like to report on:

1. **Immediate Loading Protocols** – As more scientific literature becomes available documenting the validity of immediate loading of dental implants, its application to clinical practice multiplies in usefulness. The Branemark concept of Novum has been expanded to a more simplified approach in which dental implants are placed following extractions and alveoplasty, temporary universal abutments applied, and the patient returns to their restorative dentist that day or the next for securing of a fixed lower total prosthesis. This is a simple, highly-predictable approach to restoration in the totally edentulous mandible. Other immediate loading protocols have been applied to the maxilla and to single units. The general criterion for stability is between 35 and 45 Nm resistance. It is our hope that in the near future many more restorative problems can be solved on an immediate basis.
2. **Computer Technology** – The advancement of imaging and 3-dimensional treatment planning has progressed. By using surgical stents with fiducial markers, interactive implant placement and surgical guide construction can occur. This permits not only precise placement of fixtures but also minimally invasive surgery for installation. There is no doubt that the day will come when routine computer guidance will be utilized for many implant placements.
3. **Continued Progression of Approach for the Atrophic Maxilla** – Dr. Neugarten has completed 60 cases of tibial grafting, which we will be reporting in literature soon. In addition, the protocols for zygomatic placement and other eccentric implant placement techniques have begun to expand to minimize the need for grafting and allow great stability for implant borne prostheses.

On the educational front, NYCOMS has been on both the giving and receiving ends. Our first in-office bone grafting course including a live surgical demonstration was fun and successful with very positive feedback. The next course is scheduled for April 14, 2005 to April 15, 2005. In addition, Dr. Schwartz and several of our restorative colleagues traveled to Chicago for a AAOMS supported continuing education seminar on nuances and advances in dental implant placement and their restoration. Drs. Sach and Tuminelli presented to the Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics on rehabilitation of the patient with handicapping dental disease. We are pleased to note that Dr. Stephanie Drew has been selected as a Nobel Biocare educator.

The osseointegration program at NYCOMS is clearly expanding. We stand willing and ready to work with you in developing a treatment plan for your patients whether it be simple or complex.

### **SCHOOL IS IN SESSION AT NYCOMS**

This spring expect a new series of NYCOMS supported education:

#### **Advanced Techniques of Bone Grafting for Implant Placement in the Office Setting**

**April 14, 2005** Claremont Hotel, Roslyn, NY

**April 15, 2005** NYCOMS, Lake Success, NY

#### **Long Island Total Treatment Seminars**

**March 1, 2005** Claremont Hotel, Roslyn, NY

#### **Orthognathic Surgery: Advanced Techniques**

**May 11, 2005** Garden City Hotel, Garden City, NY

Questions regarding the courses can be directed to Jessica Joseph at 631-376-1560.