



# Cultivating Trust with Deliberate, Digital and Comprehensive Treatment Planning

## A DAWSON ACADEMY STUDENT CASE STUDY

### Case Summary

Patient's previous dental experiences had caused her much frustration and anxiety throughout the years. Patient stated that she had spent most of her adult life in the dental chair only to wind up with multiple missing teeth posteriorly and anterior restorations that she was very self conscious of, as well as affecting her speech adversely.

Regarding her chronic headaches, patient had been referred to ENTs and neurologists and was being lead down a path that included possible pharmacological intervention. At this point, the patient has an occasional headache approximately once or twice a month.

**JOE GAUDIO, DDS** has been in practice for over 30 years. He graduated from Columbia University SDOS in 1984 and received the prestigious Rowe Weinberg Award for Excellence in Prosthodontics. He completed a one year General Practice Residency program in 1985 at Englewood Hospital Association.



Dr. Gaudio has been an Assistant Clinical Professor with the Prosthodontic Department at Columbia University since 1985. He is a current member in good standing of the ADA, the New Jersey Dental Association and Tri-County Dental Association.

Dr. Gaudio has completed over 1,500 hours of CE, including Dawson Academy courses, the Aesthetic Advantage Program at NYU, and the Esthetic Continuum at Columbia University. He is finishing a two year program in Orthodontics for GP's with the IAO New England Chapter. He is also a member of the New York City Dawson Study Club. In 2014, Dr. Gaudio was appointed an attending dentist at Morristown Memorial Hospital General Dental Residency Program where he has become a member of the Orofacial Pain Committee.

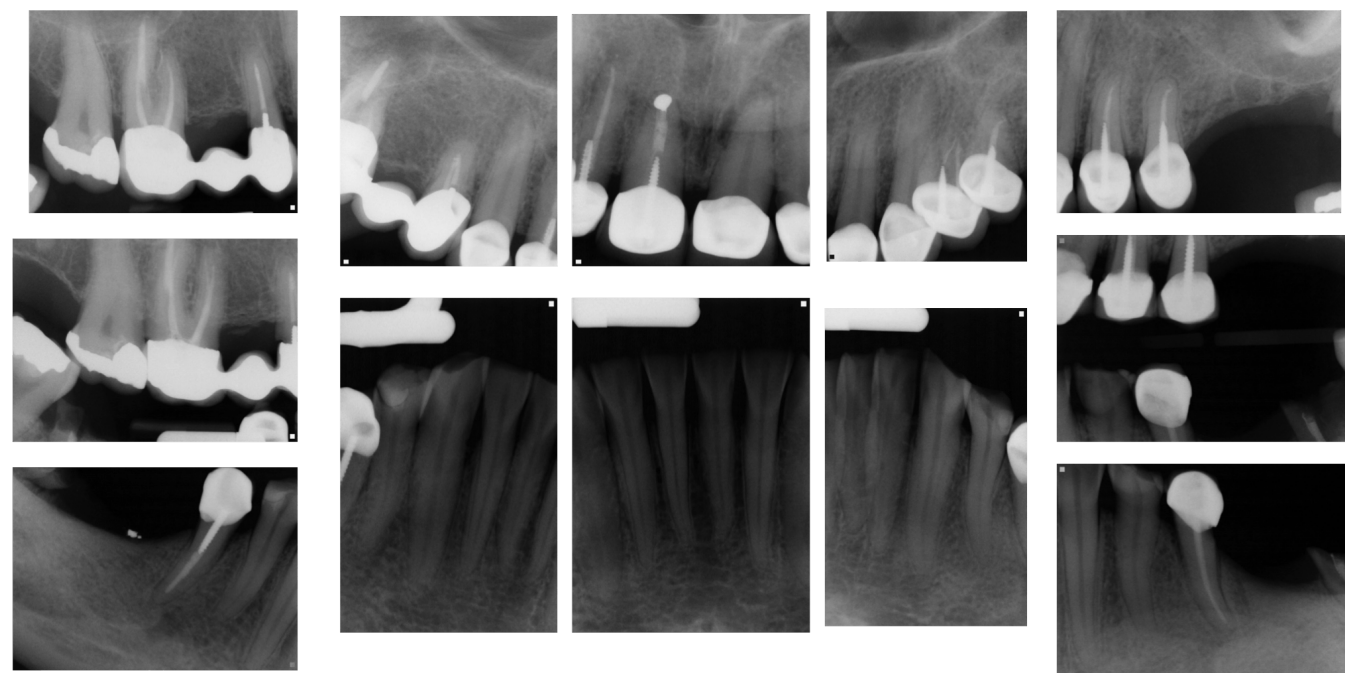


Figure 1. Radiographs charting prior to treatment.



**THE DAWSON ACADEMY**  
Making Good Dentists Even Better

800.952.2178 • 390 4th Street North, Suite 200 • St. Petersburg, FL 33701-2802  
Phone: 727.823.7047 • Fax: 727.821.0482 • Email: [Info@THEDAWSONACADEMY.COM](mailto:Info@THEDAWSONACADEMY.COM)



## Patient Summary

**Patient:** Kathrin S. is a 58 year old white female.

**Chief Concerns:** Presented with chronic headaches and speaks with a lisp.

**Dental History:** Patient had been through a lifetime of dental treatment, but presented with multiple missing teeth, some retained root tips and hypersensitivity of lower anteriors due to acid reflux during pregnancies (Figure 1).

## Complete Examination:

The patient's examination included an occlusal analysis, muscular exam, doppler auscultation, load testing, range of motion, diagnostic casts, CR bite registration, and facebow transfer.



Right Lat. Retracted  
(Teeth Apart)



Frontal Retracted  
(Teeth Apart)



Left Lat. Retracted  
(Teeth Apart)



Right Lat. Retracted  
(Teeth Together)



Frontal Retracted  
(Teeth Together)



Left Lat. Retracted  
(Teeth Together)



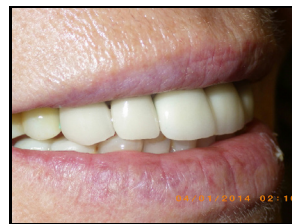
Right Lat. Retracted  
(Close Up)



Frontal Retracted  
(Close Up)



Left Lat. Retracted  
(Close Up)



Right Lateral Smile



Full Smile



Left Lateral Smile



"E" Position



Tipped Down Smile



Profile Smile



Rest Position



Upper Occlusal

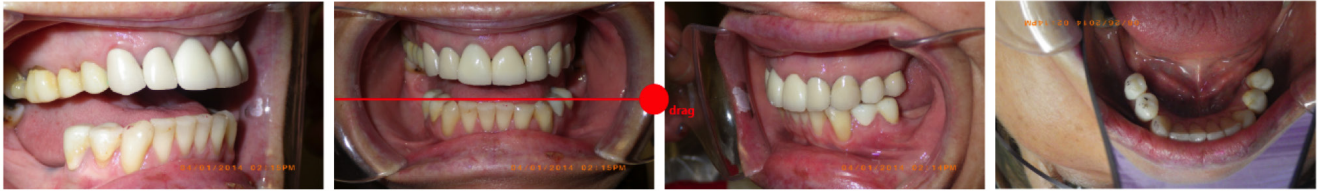


Lower Occlusal

Figure 2. Export of Dawson Diagnostic Wizard®. Photos taken prior to treatment.



## Screenshots from the Dawson Diagnostic Wizard® Software's 2D Treatment Planning Section. Photos taken prior to treatment.



Rule: Lower incisal plane is in harmony with posterior buccal cusps. The plane should be straight or convex, never concave.

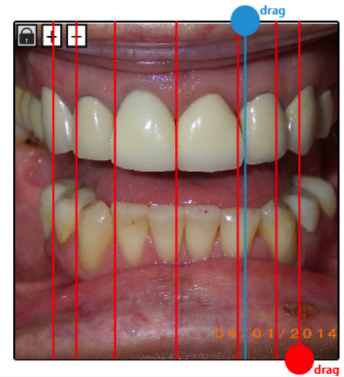
Is the lower incisal plane in harmony with the lower posterior occlusal plane?

☒ YES / ☐ NO



Ideal central incisor width based on golden proportion.

Measured Width:   
Ideal Width: 7.1

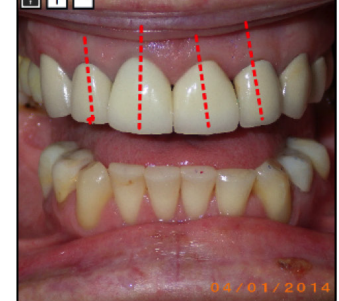


Are 6-11 in golden proportion?

☐ YES / ☒ NO



Rule: Maxillary teeth have a slight distal axial inclination.



Are the axial inclinations of the anterior teeth acceptable esthetically?

☐ YES / ☒ NO



Is the depth of the incisal embrasures appropriate for the patient?

☐ YES / ☒ NO

## Treatment Plan

### Phase 1

The treatment plan consisted of using the Best Bite "Temporary" deprogramming splint to determine that muscular tension, as well as recurrent headaches, could be relieved. This tool works very well for both diagnosis and temporary treatment.

Removal of maxillary anterior crowns and excavation of caries were completed and temporaries were fabricated using copyplast stents from diagnostic wax-ups (Figures 8, 9) in centric relation position.

The patient was then placed in provisional restorations based on the diagnostic wax-ups. (Figure 10, 11, 12, 13).



Figure 8. Diagnostic Wax-Up.



Figure 9. Diagnostic Wax-Up.



Figure 10. After Placement of Provisional Restorations.



Figure 11. After Placement of Provisional Restorations.



Figure 12. After Placement of Provisional Restorations.



Figure 13. After Placement of Provisional Restorations.



## Phase 2

Teeth numbers 22-27 had incisal attrition and were temporarily restored using composite restorations. An equilibration was then completed to regain proper anterior and cuspid guidance. Immediate relief of lisping and chronic headaches was observed.

## Phase 3

Eventually, the mandibular anteriors were restored with ceramic veneers due to hypersensitivity that patient stated was a result of acid reflux over the course of 4 pregnancies. The remaining treatment plan is to restore the posterior segments.



Figure 16. Pre-Op.



Figure 17. Final Restorations



Figure 14. Pre-Op.



Figure 18. Final Restorations



Figure 15. Pre-Op.



Figure 19. Final Restorations

## Final Thoughts

Although patient first presented to our office in 2012, it took some time to educate her in order to recognize that she was a victim of occlusal disease that was not being addressed. The BiteFX software program was used to educate her on occlusal disease because it truly allows that light bulb to go off that leads the patient to ask "what can be done?"

Secondly, my staff was frustrated with the amount of time that these types of cases have taken because most practice consultants that we've been privy to have always stressed how important it is to schedule treatment with a sense of urgency.

On the contrary, I've always stressed to them that presenting a comprehensive treatment plan with successive consultations is what cultivates trust and appreciation for the difference in the way our practice examines and treats patients. All along we continue to

assure patients that outside of emergency treatment that does have a sense of urgency, the rest of dental treatment can wait until the patient completely understands what their problems and options are.

In fact, most of the delay in the completion of this case has been treating 3 out of 4 of her children with Invisalign to retreat orthodontics that they had previously completed as teenagers and in spite of that, 2 of them were suffering from chronic headaches that were compromising their high school daily attendance. I am happy to say that they both are presently attending college and doing very well. The dad has just become a patient and he too has a comprehensive treatment plan.

After 31 years of practicing dentistry, I've never been so fired up about what we do. Thank you to Dr. Dawson and The Academy for all your inspiration and allowing me to find "my place" in this wonderful hobby we call our profession.

The Dawson Academy teaches dentists how to improve patient satisfaction by confidently diagnosing and treating every case by following our easy-to-follow records and treatment planning protocols.

You can learn this time-proven method through our live courses, study clubs or online courses. Visit <https://thedawsonacademy.com> for details.



### Live Courses.

In The Dawson Academy live courses, you will develop the knowledge and skills to confidently and accurately tackle any case - simple to complex, allowing you to increase your patients' satisfaction and your overall enjoyment of practicing dentistry.



### Study Clubs.

Dawson Study Clubs are the ultimate local learning experience. Not only will you experience camaraderie learning from the provided Dawson Academy content during meetings, you also have unlimited access to all online resources.



### Online Courses.

Learn from the comfort of your home (or office) with our online courses, videos and webinars. Dawson All Access gives you unlimited access to 40+ hours of CE courses, the Dawson Diagnostic Wizard® treatment planning software, and more!