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FOREVER YOUNG

85 year old

GETS A LIFE CHANGING *smile makeover!*

When I was a regular general dentist it was very rare to feel that I had made an impact in a patient's life. Since beginning my education at LVI, I am addicted to the feeling that I get when I can make a profound impact, and in the case of OSA (Obstructive Sleep Apnea), one that is lifesaving! There are so many great parts to being a Neuromuscular dentist. I enjoy educating patients on Neuromuscular Dentistry and how it ties into their overall health; whether it is bad bites, NM pain, or OSA and then getting to see them connect the dots and understand how it's all interconnected. It feels pretty good to be able to help my patients and receive their appreciation. Nothing beats that feeling of seeing your patients AHI's and EMG's, and dental function improve. **Their resulting smiles say it all!**

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Neuromuscular Dentist
because we truly
make a difference in
the lives of our patients!***

Here is one of my favorite cases.

Mr. Springer came to us as a referral by his sleep MD for a CPAP alternative. At that time he was "happy" with his dentist that was under his Medicare supplement plan. Mr. Springer was a lovable, elderly guy from the beginning. He is a retired firefighter, widower, and an active member of his church community and he has a "lady friend" several years his junior. He was soft spoken and had modest requests. Since he was looking for a CPAP alternative he would just say "doc if you could just help me about that machine." At that time we made him a custom Somnodent that improved his moderate OSA and over the next couple of years we developed a relationship with him.

Mr. Springer already had a dentist and wanted to be respectful of that but eventually he asked for options to improve his smile and for my opinion about his dental health. He had a well-fitting upper denture with extremely worn down teeth. He had loss of bone, especially in the pre-maxilla. His lower arch had only 22-27 and a distal extension lower partial. His dentist had treated some of his lower teeth without regard for the effects it would have on his sleep appliance. Mr. Springer was a very typical 'combination syndrome' situation where the lower teeth were destroying the upper anterior bone and he was collapsing vertical and dentistry simply hadn't recognized the impact this has on his airway.

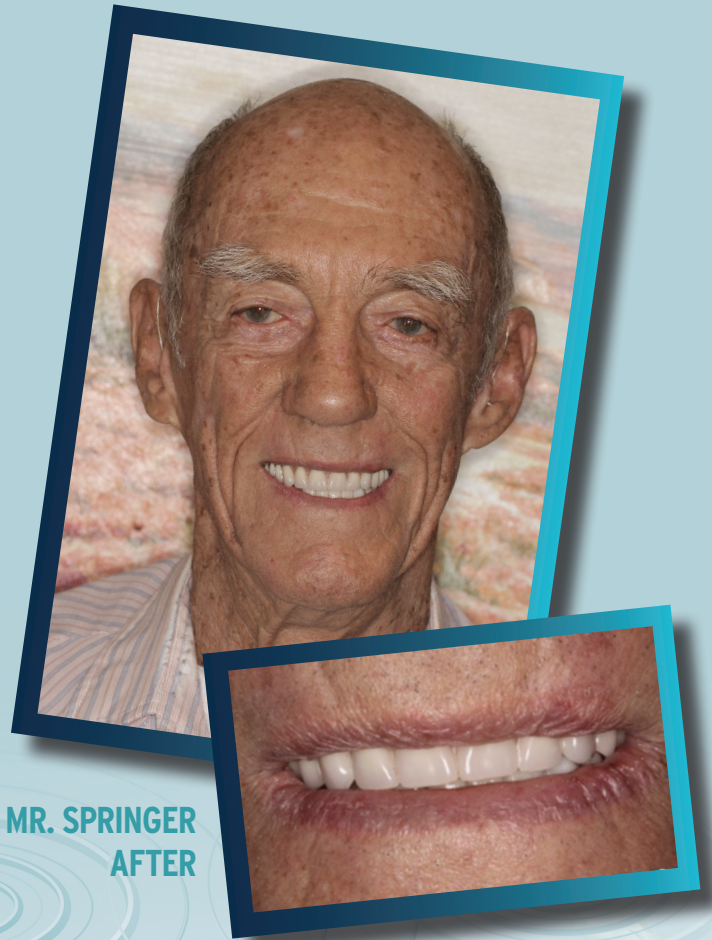
After examination I asked him what his goals were and what he was hoping to improve, and what he truly was looking for was a young and healthy looking smile. We have several pictures on the office walls that serve as smile inspiration for other patients and he pointed to a picture of my wife's Core V patient who is a patient in his 30's with a full mouth rehab. We presented options and a treatment plan was developed for a Neuromuscular upper denture, eMax on the 22-27 teeth splinted in 2 sections, and 2 implants in the 21/28 position to place locators so as to not over burden the remaining lower anteriors. A MicroO₂ sleep appliance would be the other component. Tensing was used to take the final impression and for the bite registration. Williams Dental Lab was an excellent partner in helping achieve the beautiful esthetics and function.



MR. SPRINGER BEFORE

I tried to see the patient's vision. He saw himself as a youthful man with a younger partner. He wanted to look and feel younger. After his treatment I think there was shock and disbelief that he had achieved such a powerful transformation! He was much more verbal and sociable and his confidence seemed to be higher as well. I think he had regained some youth and it matched his active mindset. He loved his new smile and here is the pic on day of insertion.

As we age we are accepting of little things that change slowly over time, and it's not often that we get to regain a youthful aspect of ourselves that we thought was long gone. How amazing is it to help someone achieve a more youthful appearance as well as help him with his overall health and Obstructive Sleep Apnea? **It feels AMAZING to be a Neuromuscular Dentist because we truly make a difference in the lives of our patients!**



**MR. SPRINGER
AFTER**

