

# Case History 1: Mr C.

A 53-year-old male with a long history of gastric distress seeks dental treatment to restore function and esthetics. He complains of inadequate dentures and tooth sensitivity. He hopes that a solution to his dental problems will also address his gastric problems.

## History

### Chief Complaints

"My teeth don't look good; they are so short that it looks like I don't have any top teeth. They are sensitive to cold drinks and sweets. If I don't wear my denture I lisp when I speak. I am not happy with my overdentures because they feel bulky. I show too much of my gums when I smile, but still the teeth are too short and my lips look puffy. I can't speak clearly with them in place, and I can't chew properly—I feel like my mouth is full of teeth and I am always squeezing the dentures together. They are simply not comfortable."

### Dental History

Maxillary and mandibular acrylic resin overdentures inserted by his family dentist 11 months ago. Patient is not satisfied with esthetics, function, or speech. Patient is aware of clenching and grinding during the day and at night.

### Medical History

Patient has suffered from gastrointestinal upsets for many years; at least 2 or 3 times a week he has stomach pains, which "will not go away until I throw up." He has never seen a physician about this, but he takes over-the-counter antacids.

### Social History

Married with 2 children, nonsmoker, social drinker. He works as a brick restorer, which involves sandblasting brick surfaces with silica or spraying them with a hydrochloric acid-based cleaner. The dust from the work makes him thirsty, so he sips frequently from a can of cola.

## Clinical and Radiographic Findings

- Extraoral examination: no significant findings.
- Dentition: see photographs, multiple amalgam restorations, no caries.

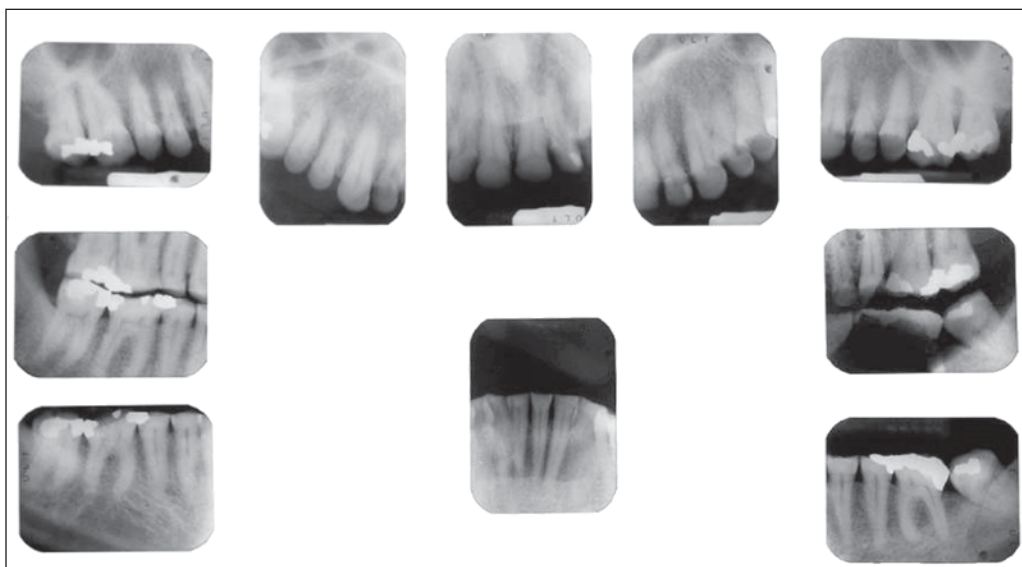
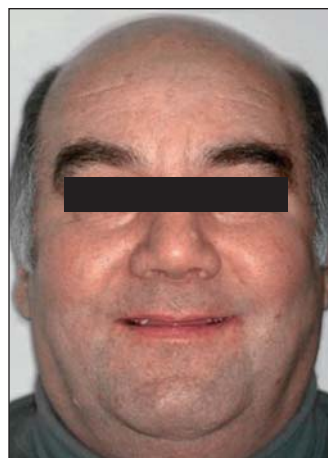
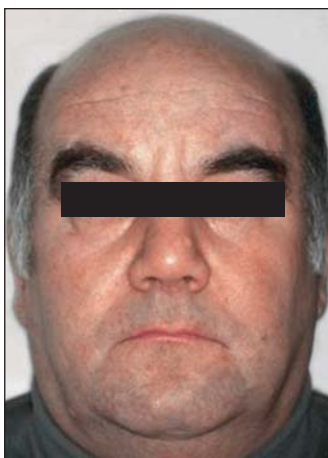
- Periodontal examination: good oral hygiene, no furcation involvement, no mobility.
- Occlusion: generalized tooth wear (type III).
- Radiographic examination: see radiographs.
- Prostheses: Vertical dimension of occlusion (VDO) with overdentures in occlusion is 5 mm greater than VDO at rest.

## Diagnosis

- Uncontrolled gastroesophageal reflux disease, leading to nonphysiologic occlusion characterized by severely worn dentition, sensitivity, loss of VDO, inadequate masticatory function, altered speech function, and compromised esthetic appearance.
- Inadequate set of overdentures fabricated at an excessive VDO.

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