

# New smile, new life



**Dr. Lorin Berland**

Dr. Berland is both accredited by and a Fellow of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry. The sought-after speaker and author has been featured in national and regional magazines, dental journals, and television programs. For more information on The Lorin Library Style Guide or his practice, visit [www.lorinberland.com](http://www.lorinberland.com).

Snap-On Smile® provides an optimal solution for fast, painless, cost-effective, and beautiful new smiles.

By Drs. Lorin Berland and Sarah Kim Kong

A 50-year-old post-Katrina victim who recently moved to Dallas was interested in a full smile rehabilitation. A native of Louisiana, he was devastated by what he saw and experienced during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He and his entire family lost everything they had worked so hard for their entire lives. The post-traumatic stress he endured caused him to almost completely grind down his once handsome smile, making him unrecognizable as the same person in photographs from just two years ago.

**The journey**

Before seeing us, he went to several dentists as well as teaching institutions, seeking a solution (Figs. 1-6). After a thorough diagnostic work-up, including a full series of photographs, x-rays, impressions and occlusal evaluation, the patient was presented with several extensive treatment plans.

The planned courses of treatment would cost more than \$60,000, take about two years to com-

*Continued on page 98*

**OLD SMILE**

For Client Review Only. All Rights Reserved. Advanstar Communications Inc. 2008



(1) Close-up of patient's pre-op smile. (2) Retracted view pre-op. (3) Close-up palatal view. (4) Right lateral and ... (5) Left lateral view. (6) Close-up occlusal view.



**Dr. Sarah Kim Kong**

Dr. Kong graduated from Baylor College of Dentistry where she has served as a professor in Restorative Dentistry. She focuses on preventative and restorative dentistry, transitionals, anesthesia, and periodontal care. Before dental school, she worked with a master ceramist in one of the world's finest dental laboratories.

## Occlusion, shape, and color adjustments are not necessary.

*Continued from page 96*

plete, and require multiple surgeries. The patient was reluctant to invest in this huge commitment of time, resources, and pain at this point in his life.

As a result, he decided to do some extensive research online for other viable options. This is when he discovered Snap-On Smile® as an alternative for a new smile.

As he explored Snap-On Smile® further, he realized that this may be the optimal solution not only for the fast, painless, cost-effective and beautiful new smile he desired, but also as a preview of what more elaborate treatment would actually look like in his mouth—before embarking on such extensive treatment.

What appealed most to him about the Snap-On Smile® was the idea that he could design his own smile with the Smile Style Guide ([www.digident.com](http://www.digident.com)).

This led him to our office as he was impressed by the myriad of smile designs available.

### The plan

Clinical and radiographic evaluation revealed a decreased vertical dimension from attrition and loss of multiple posterior teeth. We suggested building up his chipped anterior teeth, both upper and lower, with bonded composite before taking impressions for Snap-On Smile® (Figs. 7-9). This bonding would serve three purposes. First, it would make his teeth smoother to his tongue. Second, the bonding would provide a stronger and more stable foundation for his new Snap-On Smile®. Last, but not least, the bonding would eliminate undercuts. This would improve the fit by reducing the need to blockout undercuts in the lab. We strive for a better, more stable grip, or fit, of the appliances.

### The preparation

The patient agreed that this would also be a prudent step to protect his teeth from further wear. The teeth then were micro-etched and a self-etch primer like All-in-One (Kerr) or Adper Easy Bond (3M ESPE) was placed. We used a microhybrid composite such as Filtek Supreme Plus (3M ESPE) or Premise (Kerr) warmed in a Calset to build up his teeth. Once we bonded his chipped teeth, the patient felt the results with his tongue immediately.

We proceeded to take detailed impressions with regular-set PVS such as Extrude (Kerr) or Virtual (Ivoclar Vivadent), and used the Myomonitor for a TENS treatment. A neuromuscular bite registration with slow-setting material like SuperDent (Darby) was recorded at this position.

We instructed the laboratory to compensate for freeway space. At this appointment, shades for his new smile as well as a smile design based on a photograph of his pre-Katrina smile were selected. The case was sent to the Snap-On Smile Creations laboratory for fabrication.

### PRE-OP



(7) Close-up retracted view. (8) Palatal view after build up. (9) Occlusal view after build up.



### The delivery

Two weeks later, the patient returned for his new smile. There were no adjustments to the occlusion, shape, or color (Figs. 10-13). Because we were able to identify an anatomically comfortable vertical dimension with a neuromuscular bite registration and clearly communicate this information to the laboratory, the Snap-On Smile® looked and fit great (Fig. 14-15). The patient was so impressed with the results that he could not stop staring in the mirror!

### GETTING THERE



(Figs. 10-13) New smile, delivered two weeks later, needed no adjustments to the occlusion, shape or color.

*Continued on page 100*

Continued from page 98

## This patient has the smile he wanted with minimal pain in a short amount of time.

He was able to obtain the smile he desired in a timely, painless manner. If the patient pursues a fixed solution in the future, Snap-On Smile® can be used to fabricate transitional restorations or as surgical implant guides, as well as determine the anterior-posterior and vertical position of the mandible at the neuromuscular rest position.

Less than a week after receiving his new smile, the fire alarm went off in the patient's building. He e-mailed to let us know that the only things he grabbed were his dog and his Snap-On Smile®. He even sent us a photograph. This experience was truly a life-changing one for him. He not only has a new smile—now he has a new life (**Fig. 16**).

### NEW SMILE



(14) Close-up occlusal view. (15) Post-op close-up of smile. (16) Full-face look at a happy patient.