

Specialists Sing Praises Of “Dental Facial Harmony”

(NAPSA)—Worn, broken or misaligned teeth may indicate a much more serious underlying problem, says Dr. L. Douglas Knight, a leading orthodontist.

Often, a person’s teeth and jaw joints are not in the proper relationship with each other and simply straightening the teeth alone may not provide long-term stability and dental health. In the vast majority of cases, restoring “dental facial harmony” is fundamental to correcting these and other problems, and the best way to accomplish this may be a “team approach.”

The dental team’s goal is to create a balance between the face, jaw joints and teeth. The outcome is not only more aesthetically pleasing, but also more permanent than regular cosmetic dentistry.

“Your oral health and physical well being are connected,” explains Dr. Knight, a consultant to orthodontic appliance manufacturer GAC International. “Problems with jaw alignment often are the root cause of headaches, facial pain or unexplained tooth aches. Individuals who suffer from TMJ syndrome, for instance, can suffer excruciating headaches.”

Dental facial harmony may be evaluated as early as seven years old. The “bioesthetic” approach begins with a comprehensive evaluation by a specially trained orthodontist to determine if there are bite problems or jaw misalignments. If problems exist involving the underlying skeletal structure or form of the teeth, the orthodontist may advise the patient to con-



Dental facial harmony often yields a beautiful smile.

sult an oral surgeon or a restorative dentist, depending on the scope of the problem. Also, if there are gum problems, a periodontist may be consulted as well. The end result of their combined efforts: an attractive smile, a more well-balanced face and, hopefully, an extremely happy individual.

According to Dr. Knight, the good news is that the actual orthodontic treatment is generally accomplished in less time using a coordinated team approach. If braces are required, today’s virtually invisible braces, like Mystique made by GAC, yield excellent results without the embarrassment of the old metal alternatives.

“The bottom line,” says Dr. Knight, “is that arranging teeth to work in harmony with the alignment of the jaw always yields more satisfactory results and helps us reach our goal: beautiful, natural smiles that last a lifetime.”

For more information, visit www.gacmystique.com.