



**Featured Doctor**  
Dr. N Summer Lerch,  
Accredited DDS,  
FAGD, AAACD

# STORY OF THE MONTH

## Smile Design and Full Mouth Reconstruction



## Before & After



JK came to the Center for Esthetic Dentistry, LLC after years of suffering from an unbalanced jaw / mismatched tooth relationship, resulting in inefficient chewing and painful nights with dizziness, headaches and ringing in her ears. After successful jaw realignment therapy in NYC, JK and her cosmetic dental professional Dr. Summer Lerch began the complicated and precise process of restoring her teeth to match her now balanced bite and facial musculature.

A combination of porcelain crowns, porcelain veneers and splint therapy was used to correct her smile.

Within four months of starting JK's rehabilitation she was stable, her bite solid and her headaches and dizziness gone.

"Four years of my life were spent repairing my jaw and my teeth, after which Dr. Lerch began the arduous task of correcting my bite and placing my teeth where they belong. Throughout the

*"The art of dentistry is demonstrated in the quality work performed by Dr. Summer Lerch*

process, Dr. Lerch demonstrated fortitude, professionalism, and determination, and she assured me that my teeth would be perfect when she finished. She spent long hours making sure that my bite, my jaw and my facial muscles were perfectly balanced...I now have a truly beautiful smile." - JK

## About the Procedure

JK arrived with a long past history of dental procedures that had not worked out well for her. After an extensive interview process of each other, a sufficient level of trust and relationship was established on both sides to undergo full mouth restorative care.

JK was already wearing a dental repositioning splint that had stabilized her bite and jaw joint. After taking dental records and analyzing her teeth and occlusion on an articulator, a new dental splint was made capturing her now stable bite. She wore this for a month while a complete dental reconstruction was done in wax on newly articulated models.

This “wax-up” of what her new smile and teeth would look like was shown to JK. The size, shape and color of her new teeth were discussed and where needed, changes were made to the wax teeth. Once the wax template was agreed upon, duplicates were made and used to fabricate her provisional teeth, i.e. the teeth she would wear while her porcelain teeth were made.

(Provisional resin teeth are very useful to customize the shape, length, function and final color of the porcelain teeth. Patients wear them for 2 weeks or longer. Adjustments are easy to make and allow the dentist and patient to agree on the best look and function. This was done for JK too.)

Her lower arch was prepared first. She elected porcelain fused to metal crowns on her molars, porcelain crowns on her premolars and porcelain veneers on her anterior teeth. This would give her the strongest bite where she needed it (posterior – molars) combined with the esthetics she needed in the anterior region. When the preparations and dental impression were done, composite resin provisional teeth based on the “wax-up” were placed. JK then started getting used to her new look and bite. Three weeks later the lower final porcelain teeth were placed and JK was over half done. The same procedures were used for her upper arch all the while making sure her initial bite and jaw joint relationships were intact.



*Dr. N Summer Lerch,*  
DDS, FAGD, AAACD

## About this Doctor

My team and I are absolutely committed to giving our patients a warm, positive experience every time they come in. Our New Haven, Hartford and Greenwich, Connecticut area cosmetic dentistry patients become dear friends, and we strive to help each person achieve a smile more beautiful than they ever imagined. I have received numerous accolades for outstanding work as a cosmetic dentist. I have been featured on the radio and on television, and I am Accredited by the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD). I am also an examiner of the accreditation process for other cosmetic dentists, and a past President of the New England Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry - an affiliate of the AACD. Perhaps the praise I most cherish, however, is that which comes from our happy dental patients. Nearly everyone who leaves our office does so with a hug and smile, and that is the best!

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