

Tammy Ferguson had scarlet fever when she was a little girl, and had a lot of dental work as a young adult, a number of silver fillings and several crowns.

"In 1999 I started removing the metal from my mouth, one tooth at a time," Tammy explains. She went to several dentists, wasn't happy with the results, and ended up with several porcelain crowns, each a different color. Then her teeth started. She had another broken tooth, and was referred to Dr. Sue Wendling because she was a great cosmetic dentist.

During the consultation and testing that followed, Tammy found that she had an overbite and that her jaw was out of alignment. She was also clenching and grinding her teeth at night, and that was the cause of her tension headache every morning. She thought they were part of her life that went along with having a stressful job and a 5-year-old.

The first step was to take care of the bite by wearing a night guard, and then take care of the rest of her teeth. Soon Tammy was having fewer headaches. She kept wearing the night guard, who was now her friend, opening her bite and relaxing her jaw. She stopped clenching and grinding her teeth.

Once that was done, they talked about replacing the metal in her mouth. Dr. Wendling recommended a full-mouth reconstruction. "The best part," said Tammy, "is that you go in and it's done in one appointment. I went in for a six-hour appointment and she did all the bottom temporaries. I wore those for awhile to adjust to them, and then she did the temporaries on the top." Then they fine-tuned the temporaries until they had the perfect bite.

"It all happened so fast. I started in August 2005 and the permanent teeth were in by February 2006," said Tammy. "The temporaries were just as beautiful as the crowns and veneers I have now, which was a huge relief." All the metal is gone!



Tammy Ferguson, patient

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"Dr. Wendling took care of a medical problem I didn't realize I had, as well as fixing my teeth," explains Tammy. "I love the result, the look and the way they feel. When people see me they don't know what it is, but they tell me I look great and a lot younger. I don't have headaches; I don't clench and grind my teeth. I still have a stressful job and I still have a 5-year-old, but I feel great, and it was a very positive experience."