



Emergency Makeover

getting the best result so that the tissues are manipulated in the best possible way for ideal healing with little defect.”

He remembered when Tanya, an on-duty Arlington County police officer, came into the O.R. Tanya, who was on foot that night, had been

ing them to adjacent teeth, and began healing the upper and lower jaw by “reducing” the fractures; that is, putting the jaws back into place with plates, screws and sutures.

“The lower teeth were all treated with root canals and porcelain crowns,” Singer said.

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Not all dental damage is the result of gradual deterioration, and on-call dentists must be ready to immediately handle urgent cases as they arise. Dr. Lawrence Singer, who serves as assistant clinical professor of surgery at George Washington University and has practices in Alexandria and Washington, D.C., is on-call for facial fractures and dentoalveolar trauma, including avulsed teeth.

When traumas arise, he goes to the George Washington University hospital to assess the patients’ injuries, and has had many unique cosmetic and reconstructive surgery opportunities. “Often, we will go into the O.R. and reset broken jaw bones, and re-implant and stabilize loose teeth,” Singer said. “This initial treatment is critical to

struck by a car traveling at 55 miles per hour. In addition to broken hands and a badly broken leg, she had broken upper and lower jaws. She had lost six upper teeth and had three avulsed lower teeth. While orthopedics reconstructed Tanya’s broken hands and legs, Singer worked on her maxillofacial region with an ENT resident. He re-implanted and stabilized the lower teeth by connect-

“We are replacing the upper teeth that were lost with zirconium implants and zirconium crowns, all porcelain.” Since the initial surgeries, Tanya has had several additional plastic surgeries for her gums. “It has been seven months since the accident, and we expect her to finish up in the next couple,” Singer predicted. “Tanya is a tough gal. She has a big smile, though, and restoring it has been rewarding as any.”

LAWRENCE D. SINGER, DMD

earned his Doctor of Medical Dentistry at the School of Dental Medicine: University of Pennsylvania, where he served as assistant professor of restorative dentistry from 1997 to 2000. He currently is the assistant clinical professor of surgery at George Washington University and maintains full admitting and ambulatory center privileges at the GWU hospital. He is a member of the Academy of Osseointegration, the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry and American Dental Association, among others. He is also fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry, as well as the International Congress of Oral Implantologists. His practice, DC Smiles, has locations in Washington, D.C., and Alexandria, specializing in cosmetic, implant, and reconstructive dentistry. Visit www.novasmiles.com.