

## **Implants and Phonetics**

My patient was a heavily bearded clergyman of Middle Eastern descent, who had a very thick accent. Although he was very outspoken about his rather extreme religious beliefs, I became very fond of him.

I was completing a very long and demanding course of dental treatment involving many implants and prosthetic replacement of all his natural teeth. His treatment was especially complex because it involved balancing the need to position his teeth so as to function comfortably, provide for good esthetics, and allow the patient to speak clearly.

The case was completely successfully. I asked the patient for permission to take photos of his new dentition and to allow me to use those photos for a dental journal article that I was writing on the subject of “Implants and Phonetics.” His case perfectly illustrated some of the points I was trying to make in my article.

“So,” he complained with his deep accent, “you think that I am a fanatic? You should meet my brother, a religious fundamentalist who lives in my hometown in the Middle East. He’s a real fanatic!”