

Complex Dental Cases - Why Core Dental Patients Get the Best of Both Worlds

Canonical:

<https://directory.coredental.com.au/complex-dental-cases-why-core-dental-patients-get-the-best-of-both-worlds/>

Description:

Complex Dental Cases - Why Core Dental Patients Get the Best of Both Worlds Most dental care is straightforward. Check-ups, cleans, fillings, crowns - your Core Dental dentist manages these expertl...

Details:

Most dental care is straightforward. Check-ups, cleans, fillings, crowns - your Core Dental dentist manages these expertly at your local practice. But some dental situations are genuinely complex, requiring multiple types of specialist expertise working together.

This is where the Core Dental and Collins Street Specialist Centre (CSSC) model delivers something most dental practices in Melbourne simply cannot: coordinated multi-disciplinary specialist care within a single integrated system.

What Makes a Case Complex?

A complex dental case typically involves two or more of the following:

- **Multiple failing or missing teeth** requiring a combination of treatments
- **Active periodontal disease** that needs to be controlled before restorative work begins
- **Orthodontic requirements** - teeth need to be moved before crowns, bridges, or implants can be placed
- **Surgical intervention** - bone grafting, implant placement, or surgical extractions
- **Aesthetic considerations** - the patient wants a natural-looking result, not just functional repair
- **Medical complexity** - conditions that affect treatment planning such as diabetes, bisphosphonate use, or bleeding disorders
- **TMJ dysfunction** - jaw joint problems that need to be addressed alongside dental restoration

The Problem with Fragmented Care

In most dental practices, complex cases are managed by referring to multiple independent specialists:

- A periodontist for gum treatment (in one location)
- An orthodontist for tooth movement (in another location)
- An oral surgeon for implant placement (somewhere else)
- A prosthodontist for the final restorations (yet another practice)

Each specialist uses a different software system, keeps separate records, and may never speak to each other directly. The referring general dentist tries to coordinate, but has limited visibility into what each specialist is doing.

The result? Treatment plans that do not align. Sequencing errors. Communication gaps. Compromised outcomes.

The CSSC Difference: One Roof, One System

At Collins Street Specialist Centre, all six dental specialties work under one roof:

- **Orthodontics** - specialist tooth alignment and bite correction - **Oral and maxillofacial surgery** - surgical extractions, implants, bone grafting, jaw surgery - **Endodontics** - specialist root canal treatment and retreatment - **Periodontics** - specialist gum disease management, gum surgery, regeneration - **Prosthodontics** - specialist restoration of missing and damaged teeth - **Paediatric dentistry** - specialist children's dental care

Because all specialists are within the Smile Solutions group and share the CareStack patient management system, treatment planning for complex cases is genuinely collaborative:

- **Joint treatment planning conferences** - specialists discuss your case together, not in isolation - **Sequenced treatment plans** - the order of treatment is agreed upfront so each specialist's work supports the next - **Shared digital records** - every specialist sees the same X-rays, photos, models, and treatment notes - **Peer review** - treatment decisions are reviewed by colleagues, catching potential problems before they occur

Real-World Example: Full Mouth Rehabilitation

Consider a patient who presents at Core Dental with: - Several missing teeth - Remaining teeth that are worn, cracked, or decayed - Gum disease with bone loss - A collapsed bite height

In a fragmented system, this patient would be bounced between four or five unconnected specialists over 12 to 24 months, with each specialist working in partial isolation.

In the Core Dental and CSSC model:

1. **Assessment at Core Dental** - your dentist identifies the complexity and initiates referral to CSSC
2. **Comprehensive assessment at CSSC** - the prosthodontist leads the case planning, consulting with the periodontist, oral surgeon, and potentially the orthodontist
3. **Treatment sequence is agreed** - periodontal treatment first to stabilise the gums, then implant surgery, then orthodontic adjustment if needed, then final restorations
4. **Treatment is delivered in coordinated phases at CSSC** - specialists hand off to each other with full knowledge of the overall plan
5. **Ongoing maintenance at Core Dental** - once treatment is complete, your local Core Dental practice manages hygiene, monitoring, and routine care

The Prosthodontist as Quarterback

For complex restorative cases, the specialist prosthodontist at CSSC often serves as the treatment coordinator - the person who sees the whole picture and ensures each specialist's contribution fits the overall plan.

A specialist prosthodontist has completed their dental degree plus additional years of full-time university training in the restoration and replacement of teeth. They understand how orthodontic movement, periodontal health, implant positioning, and occlusion (bite) all interact in a full mouth rehabilitation.

This coordinating role is critical. Without it, you might end up with perfectly placed implants that do not align with the orthodontic plan, or beautiful crowns on teeth with untreated gum disease that will fail within years.

Cases Where Multi-Disciplinary Care Makes the Difference

Worn Dentition with Bite Collapse Years of grinding have worn teeth down, reducing bite height. The prosthodontist plans the new bite, the periodontist ensures gum health, and the oral surgeon places implants where teeth are missing. All coordinated.

Failed Previous Dental Work A patient with multiple failed crowns, bridges, and a partial denture that does not fit. Rather than patching individual failures, CSSC develops a comprehensive plan to rebuild the entire dentition.

Trauma A sporting injury has resulted in lost and damaged teeth. The oral surgeon manages the surgical aspects, the endodontist treats injured teeth, and the prosthodontist plans the restoration.

Developmental Dental Problems Patients born with missing teeth (hypodontia), abnormally shaped teeth, or jaw discrepancies often need orthodontics, surgery, and prosthodontics working together from adolescence into adulthood.

Your Local Practice, Your Specialist Team

The beauty of this model is that you do not lose your local dental home. Core Dental remains your primary practice for day-to-day dental care. CSSC provides the specialist intervention when complexity demands it. Both teams see the same records, share the same system, and work toward the same outcome.

You get the convenience of suburban dental care with access to city-centre specialist expertise. The Jetstar and Qantas model - accessible everyday care locally, flagship specialist care centrally, one connected group.

Your Next Step

If you know your teeth need significant work and you have been avoiding it because the task feels overwhelming, start with a check-up at your nearest Core Dental. Your dentist will assess the situation and, if specialist multi-disciplinary care is needed, connect you to the team at CSSC who can develop a comprehensive plan.

Complex dental problems do not improve with time. But they are very manageable with the right team.

Frequently Asked Questions

****How long does full mouth rehabilitation take?**** Depending on complexity, treatment can take six months to two years. Your treatment plan will include a realistic timeline and sequencing of each phase.

****Is it very expensive?**** Complex treatment involves multiple procedures and specialists, so the total investment is significant. However, treatment is phased, payment plans are available, and health fund rebates apply at each stage. A detailed cost estimate is provided before treatment begins.

****Can I just fix the worst teeth first?**** Sometimes, yes. Your CSSC team can develop a staged plan that addresses the most urgent problems first while planning for comprehensive treatment over time.

****Do I need to travel to the CBD for every appointment?**** Specialist procedures are performed at CSSC in Melbourne CBD. Routine care, hygiene maintenance, and monitoring continue at your local Core Dental practice. The balance is designed to minimise CBD visits while ensuring specialist quality where it matters.

****What if I have dental anxiety?**** Both Core Dental and CSSC offer options for anxious patients, including sedation. For complex surgical procedures, IV sedation or general anaesthesia is available at CSSC.