The Implant Retained Palate-less Denture

Michael J. Maginnis, D.D.S., M.S.
Board Certified Specialist, Removable Prosthodontics
Approximately nine months prior to these pictures, the patient, a 55 year old female had four remaining over-restored and decayed maxillary bicuspids extracted and replaced with a maxillary, immediate, complete denture. The patient then underwent sinus lift and bone graft surgeries and eventually had placed six 4.3 millimeter diameter osseo-intergrated implants. The implants were restored with Locator® abutments and corresponding male housings with nylon retentive inserts were bonded into the denture. At this juncture, a final wash impression has been made in the denture and analogs have been inserted into the nylon inserts to accomplish a transfer of the implant positions.
A master cast with implant analogs is produced along with a Snap-Stone facial index of the denture tooth positions. The cast is mounted on an articulator, the denture is removed from the model and returned to the patient to serve as an interim prosthesis. A metal framework is designed on the master cast model.
New denture teeth are placed in the indices as a guide for producing a metal framework with a natural palatal inclination.
The teeth can be attached to the framework for a final wax try-in prior to processing in acrylic.
Extended range male nylon inserts may be necessary to accommodate abutment angulations.
Palate-Less Maxillary Denture on Four Locator® Abutments:
Alternate design of palate-less maxillary denture on four widely spaced Locator® abutments.