

Abused Teen Finds Help at Eastman Dental

A teenage girl who we'll call Zoe reported to Eastman Dental's Pediatric dental clinic last fall after being referred from Strong's REACH clinic (Referral and Evaluation service for Abused Children). She had been a victim of assault and sustained injuries to her mouth that caused the loss of her two top central front teeth. Loss of teeth clearly creates functional problems, but even more importantly for someone her age, the negative psychosocial impact of an injury of this nature can be profound.



From a treatment standpoint, restoring this young woman's smile would require making a temporary prosthesis to replace her missing teeth until she finished growing so that implants could be placed. To further complicate matters, Zoe was on probation due to a violation of a PINS (Persons In Need of Supervision)

order. It was clear to everyone at Eastman that Zoe's case would require a team effort in order to get her the care she needed.

By partnering with Social Work, the doctors and administrative staff were able to navigate the many consenting, insurance, and billing issues involved with Zoe's case. Her Medicaid had been terminated, but Social Work was able to clear a path to submit her uncovered dental expenses related to the crime to an area crime victims advocacy agency— a possibility that the dental team would not have otherwise known existed.