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**Gabriel Gabbaypour,  
M.D., D.D.S.**

BEVERLY HILLS ORAL SURGERY

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## Beverly Hills Oral Surgery

By Travis Anderson

Natalie Gabbaypour hesitated when her husband, one of the region's most respected oral and maxillofacial surgeons, decided to share his cell phone number with his patients and dental colleagues. Dr. Gabriel Gabbaypour wanted to be available to them at all times and the mother of young children understood the implications.

Eight years after his personal cell phone number went public, Dr. Gabbaypour and his wife are pleased with his decision. "Whether we're having dinner in a restaurant or he is in the office seeing a patient, he always makes time to return the call," she says. "People have been very respectful. They appreciate knowing they can get in touch with him. He has a special way of calming people and putting them at ease."

An oral and maxillofacial surgeon at Beverly Hills Oral Surgery on Roxbury Drive, "Dr. G," as his patients and colleagues call him, offers solutions for most complex problems relating to the face, facial skeleton, and oral cavity. He performs complex reconstructive surgery of the facial skeleton, corrective jaw surgery, implant tooth replacement and removal of wisdom teeth. He also uses the latest cutting edge technology to treat snoring and sleep apnea.

Dr. Gabbaypour holds special interest in treating congenital and acquired craniofacial deformities in children, craniofacial trauma, as well as treatment of temporomandibular joint disorders (TMJ). He provides these services safely and comfortably, using the latest in local and intravenous anesthesia.

### Achieving the American Dream

Dr. Gabbaypour was born and raised in Iran, but decided as a teenager to risk his life to flee to the United States during the height of the Iran-Iraq War. Smuggled out of the country, the 16-year-old spent a year in Austria and Pakistan while awaiting approval for political asylum in the U.S.

"When I think about it now, it is very scary to travel on your own without family, and to have no idea what is next," he says. "At that age, you just don't realize what lies ahead. I was fortunate that I wasn't fully aware of the danger, but also that I understood the opportunities. I'm proud that I have been able to take full advantage of the opportunities this country has offered me."

In 1992, soon after moving to Southern California, Dr. Gabbaypour began undergraduate studies on scholarships at the University of California. He had known since childhood that he wanted to pursue a career in dentistry or medicine, patterning himself after uncles who remained in his homeland. He chose dentistry because he was good with his hands (in fact, although he has little free time now to pursue his hobby, Dr. Gabbaypour is an accomplished woodworker).

"I did different rotations in dental school and discovered that the surgical aspect of dentistry was what I loved," he says. After graduating with high honors from the UCLA School of Dentistry in 1996, Dr. Gabbaypour studied until 2000 to obtain his Doctor of Medicine at UCLA's School of Medicine. This was followed by a one-year internship in general surgery, and then another year was spent as chief resident at three hospitals to earn his specialty certificate in oral and maxillofacial surgery in 2002.

"UCLA is a tertiary care center and all of the big cases that couldn't be dealt with elsewhere came to us, based on our affiliations with county hospitals and local trauma centers," he says. "This gave me first-hand experience in treating a wide range of conditions, as opposed to having to learn it during a weekend conference and returning to the office to try something new."

During his time at UCLA, Dr. Gabbaypour also discovered how comfortable he felt in the "melting pot" of

◀ **Dr. Gabbaypour's training as a medical doctor and dentist enhances his skills to treat the most difficult oral surgery cases.**





**Dr. Gabbaypour reviews X-rays with Captain Raymond Garcia, who has undergone reconstructive jaw surgery due to a gun shot injury to his face and jaw and is in his last phase of treatment.**

Los Angeles. Since opening Beverly Hills Oral Surgery in 2002, he’s cared for a diverse group of patients whom he says makes coming to the office each morning a joy. “I love what I do and look forward to seeing my patients every day,” he says.

### Dentist and Doctor in One

As one of the few oral and maxillofacial surgeons in California who has both dental and medical degrees, Dr. Gabbaypour is uniquely qualified to help his patients. Due to the fact that Dr. Gabbaypour has studied both medicine and dentistry, he has a wide range of knowledge about multiple aspects of health care and medicine, which helps him offer the best treatment outcomes for each of his patients.

The lion’s share of oral and maxillofacial surgery practices offer extractions and dental implants, two “bread-and-butter” services often associated with the specialty. However, Dr. Gabbaypour also treats craniofacial deformities caused by cancer or trauma. “Some cases are so complex that only a few specialists have the training or ability to fix them,” he says. “I was fortunate to develop my skills at a major center that didn’t limit training, and it helped me build a network of physicians and dentists on whom I can call.”

That’s another advantage of his Southern California roots. Dr. Gabbaypour, an attending surgeon who has clinical privileges at UCLA Medical Center and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, maintains many connections in his community. “He went to school at UCLA and knows so many people – the most appropriate people – he can pick up the phone and know exactly who to call,” says Natalie. “Patients

and their dentists benefit because he is so well connected, even in specialty areas that have little to do with dentistry. He can always find someone who knows the answer.”

Dr. Gabbaypour finds himself blessed to care for many people who have the choice of many oral and maxillofacial surgeons and still choose to come to him for the best treatment. Dr. Gabbaypour’s patients come from near and far, which he holds as a particular point of pride. “I’ve



**Garcia case, stage II area of the gun shot grafted with hip bone.**



**Garcia, stage III implants placed in the grafted site, with patient awaiting osseointegration of the implants and the prosthetic rehabilitation.**

noticed that a lot of people outside of the area – even from outside of the state – travel to Beverly Hills because of the expertise concentrated here. People definitely make the choices that are best for them, even if they need to travel a long ways to do it.”

In his office waiting area, Dr. Gabbaypour displays an album filled with heartfelt thank-you notes. His wife thinks the reason for this outpouring of gratitude goes far beyond his technical skill. “He never rushes through a consultation, and I think that’s partly because he enjoys people so much,” she says. “He tells me he meets amazing people through his practice. He learns from them and develops professional friendships. There are often cards or flowers coming to the office.”

### Working with Referring Doctors

With a limited marketing budget, Dr. Gabbaypour has relied on recommendations from satisfied patients, as well as referrals made from general dentists with whom he has built a good working relationship. “I have received many referrals through my patients,” he says. “It’s a good thing when that happens, and it is very humbling for me. Every patient who walks through the door can be assured that we always involve his or her personal dentist. Every patient returns to their dentist after their work is done. If a patient who comes here for treatment doesn’t have a dentist, we’ll work with them to find a match for their personality, location, and needs.”

Dr. Gabbaypour is mindful of the relationship between the patient and referring dentist or physician and works hard not to infringe upon it. “We treat the patients of other doctors, so they are only our guests,” he says. “They come here and get their surgery done. We’re always available for them, but I do everything within my power to help the patient get back to the referring dentist with their surgical problems solved, so the patient can continue with their general dental and medical care.”

Dr. Gabbaypour works diligently to build relationships with referring dentists and physicians. “Some of my colleagues want to know every step of the process,” he says. “They will call before their patient comes in for an evaluation, they will talk to me during the evaluation, and they will wait to hear from me after the visit. Others simply want a report once the treatment is completed. I want to make them all feel comfortable with the process.”

To share his knowledge more broadly, Dr. Gabbaypour offers continuing education classes. His study club for general dentists hosts as many as 10 meetings each year, providing them with additional information about all aspects of dentistry, not just oral and maxillofacial surgery. It’s an extra commitment, but “we do this for them and for the good of the entire dental community. They bring cases that most dentists normally wouldn’t see, so it’s good experience for everybody.”

Dr. Gabbaypour stays abreast of the latest developments and research in his specialty field in many ways. He is active in organizations, such as the American Dental Association, the California Dental Association, the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, and the California Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. In addition, he teaches undergraduates and residents in UCLA’s Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, an assignment that allows him to gain more knowledge and refine his skills. “My students learn from me and I learn from them,” he says.



Pre-operative photograph of a patient. Frontal view with fractured teeth.



Occlusal view showing missing upper posterior teeth.



Occlusal view showing missing lower posterior teeth.



Pre-operative panoramic x-ray showing missing teeth.

“Teaching forces me to remain very well-versed in the specialty.”

In addition to the outstanding technical services available at Beverly Hills Oral Surgery, referring dentists and their patients benefit in other ways. For example, Dr. Gabbaypour has replaced film-based technology with in-office digital radiography, which means faster treatment times for patients and less hassle for dentists. “We can e-mail images instantly, making it easier to talk about a case,” he says. “By sharing images so effortlessly, the referring dentist and I can treat the patient together on the phone. I can explain what we’re going to do and why I recommend it.”

Referring dentists also enjoy working with the Beverly Hills Oral Surgery front desk, where staff members try to accommodate special scheduling requests, making the experience comfortable for both offices. His staff members are trained in basic life support, and surgical assistants are trained in advanced cardiac life support. In addition, many staff members have also undergone procedures in the office, giving them the “patient perspective” on the experience.

### Personalizing Dental Implants

Many people are referred to Beverly Hills Oral Surgery to receive dental implants.

He describes implants as “the magic bullet” in dentistry today. “Before dental implants, there were only a few choices to replace teeth,” he explains. “Now, implants are the routine standard of care, and research is ongoing, as we explore even better ways as to how we can offer the best outcome to our patients.”

Dr. Gabbaypour prides himself on being one of the few specialists in the region offering products from a broad spectrum of dental implant systems, as opposed to many other oral surgeons, who have an exclusive relationship with a single manufacturer. Natalie explains: “When a general dentist asks, ‘What kind of implant system do you use?’ Gabriel is one of the few who doesn’t give a stock answer. He’s comfortable saying, ‘Tell me what kind you’d like to use.’ He goes out of his way to use a system they like.”

His practice carries an extensive line of dental implants, including AstraTech, BioMet3i, Lifecore, Nobel Biocare, and Straumann. They all have good, long-proven track records, Dr. Gabbaypour says, but sometimes a general dentist prefers a certain brand, or the patient’s particular needs call for a specific system. Some implants are preferable, depending on the quality and topography of the bone and where the implant is being placed, among other factors. “Factors include the patient’s age, whether the patient has osteoporosis, what surface the implant company uses – because some of these implants integrate faster and some don’t” he says. “Depending on the size and quality of the available bone, we sometimes want to avoid bone grafting. In these cases, we can use a different system and still get the same result with high success.”

### Balancing Responsibilities

In addition to his practice and teaching time, Dr. Gabbaypour is active in professional organizations and was recently president of the Los Angeles chapter of the Alpha Omega dental fraternity. But although he is always available for emergency consultations, he tries hard to balance the demands of his profession and his home life.



Post-operative panoramic radiography with final prosthetic rehabilitation.



Occlusal view of the upper jaw with restored implants.



Occlusal view of the lower jaw with restored implants.



Final clinical result.

**Beverly Hills Oral Surgery is located at 465 N. Roxbury Drive, Suite 815, Beverly Hills, CA 90210. Call (310) 276-1155 or e-mail [contactus@beverlyhillsoralsurgery.com](mailto:contactus@beverlyhillsoralsurgery.com).**

He and Natalie met at UCLA, where they both attended dental school. They have three children, ages 6, 4, and nearly 2, who are cared for at home by their mother. “They already know what daddy is doing,” she says, proudly. “If we’re driving somewhere, they know to be quiet because daddy is talking to someone who needs his advice. They respect him a lot and understand the importance of what he does. They like to listen and ask questions. They know their daddy loves to help people.”

### **To the Rescue**

The man who may have benefited most from the compassionate care provided by one of Southern California’s most respected oral and maxillofacial surgeons wasn’t even his patient. Dr. Gabbaypour was preparing for a full day at his Beverly Hills office around 7 a.m. three years ago when he heard a frantic knock at the door. A man undergoing physical therapy for a knee injury had collapsed. Trained as a dentist and a medical doctor, Dr. Gabbaypour grabbed his emergency crash cart and raced to the side of the man, who was in cardiac arrest and without a pulse. “We shocked him and brought him back before the paramedics arrived,” he says. Several weeks later, the Beverly Hills Fire Department hosted a reception in Dr. Gabbaypour’s honor, presenting him with a plaque commending him for his service to others. Even today, the details of that unexpected experience remain startling vivid. “Just remembering it right now motivates me to keep up with the latest technology and treatments,” he says.



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**Dr. Gabbaypour, M.D., D.D.S., and his wife, Natalie Gabbaypour, D.D.S.**

Travis Anderson, the author of this story, is a freelance writer who can be reached at [traviswanderson@yahoo.com](mailto:traviswanderson@yahoo.com) or 585-321-0362.

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**Staff left to right: Aleyda Gonzalez (surgical tech), Dawn Reid (patient coordinator), Dr. Gabbaypour, Victoria Roohi (insurance specialist), Sandy Mendez (surgical tech), Tancy Kirkland (insurance verification and receptionist).**