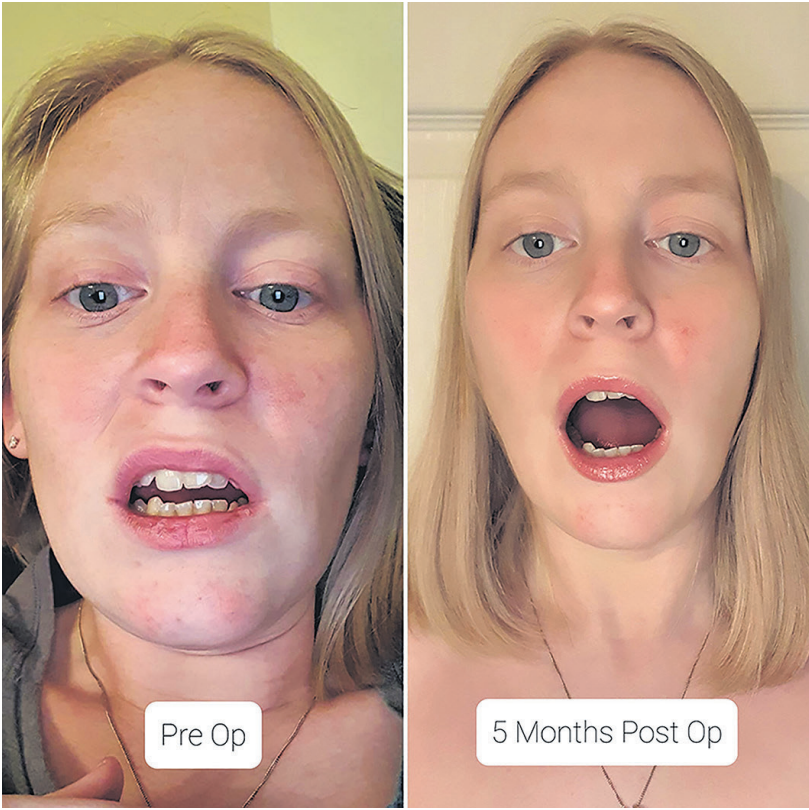


APL Media Limited,  
Highgate Studios, 53-79 Highgate Road,  
London NW5 1TL  
Tel. +44 (0)20 7253 7372  
[www.aplmedia.co.uk](http://www.aplmedia.co.uk)



## JAW SURGERY THAT CHANGES LIVES

**How would you feel if you couldn't eat, speak or even yawn properly? Help is at hand with several innovative techniques now available**

The temporomandibular joint or TMJ is one of the body's smallest joints, but it's essential to our wellbeing, and when it's damaged by osteoarthritis, inflammatory arthritis, injury or overuse, it can seriously affect our quality of life, resulting in clicking, restricted movement and pain. And, in this most stressful of times, increasing numbers of patients have presented with TMJ disorders.

When it comes to jaw and jaw joint surgery in the UK, consultant oral and maxillofacial surgeon, Mr Luke Cascarini, is the first name on people's lips. A specialist in treating jaw disorders, he has an enviable record of innovation in both the use of regenerative treatments, which harness the body's natural ability to repair itself, and surgical techniques to treat jaw and TMJ conditions, which have reduced risks and time spent in hospital and enabled better recovery.

**Helping the jaw heal itself**

One of the first and few UK surgeons using regenerative treatments for the jaw, Luke aims, wherever possible, to avoid surgery, and thus has pioneered the use of Bone Marrow Aspirate Concentrate (BMAC). BMAC is a non-operative, minimally invasive procedure that uses stem cells harvested from bone marrow – the spongy tissue within bones – to promote healing in the damaged jaw, by accelerating the body's natural healing processes.

Toni, an intensive care nurse, recently benefited from this treatment. After nine months of constant pain and worsening trouble opening her mouth, where she could only open her jaw 10mm, Toni could no longer eat or brush her teeth. She says: "It was horrific – I'd lost almost all quality of life. I couldn't work and was constantly tired." She was treated by Luke with bone marrow cells taken from her hip then injected into her jaw. Toni can't speak highly enough of the care she's received. "I feel amazing. I now have a mouth opening of between 30 and 35mm. I have returned to full-time work and stopped taking all the pain medication." She continues: "My advice to other people with similar TMJ conditions is don't give up hope, see Mr Cascarini as he's literally the best. He gave me hope where I had no hope. He's very professional but also friendly and extremely knowledgeable. I'd highly recommend BMAC." See images on the left of Toni's restricted mouth opening before surgery and five months after treatment. You can find out more about BMAC here: [theregenerativeclinic.co.uk/bmac-bone-marrow-aspirate-concentrate](http://theregenerativeclinic.co.uk/bmac-bone-marrow-aspirate-concentrate)

**Minimally invasive surgery for quicker recovery and less scarring**

Another example of Luke's outstanding surgical skills and dedication to innovation is his expertise in jaw joint disc plication, also known as a level III jaw arthroscopy. Having travelled to America and Denmark to master this technique, uniquely he performs this procedure arthroscopically to treat jaw joint disc displacement. Arthroscopic disc plication involves keyhole surgery through three tiny punctures to recapture the disc and suture it into position. Its advantage over open surgery and disc fixation is that a clicking jaw joint, restricted movement and pain can be treated as a day case with fewer complications, less scarring and quicker recovery.

This procedure proved life-changing for Candice. She'd experienced severe jaw pain and a loud popping sound doing "anything from eating to yawning" for four years. Following her disc plication treatment with Luke to resite the disc in her left jaw joint, she says: "Before the surgery, I thought that maybe I'd still experience some popping, but now, my jaw feels better than it has in years. There's no popping and no pain when I eat. I'd highly recommend not only Mr Cascarini, but also the procedure. This surgery has transformed my life."

**Titanium total jaw replacement in a UK first**

Luke achieved another surgical first when he performed the UK's first total mandible (lower jaw) replacement with a computer-designed titanium implant. This groundbreaking procedure involves a CT scan being taken from which a complete mandible with both TMJs is computer designed and manufactured from titanium. It's inserted using an incision in front of the ear and under the chin and the entire lower jaw is replaced. Thanks to computer-designed implants, Luke can also offer custom TMJ replacement tailored exactly to each individual's jaw joint and extended TMJ replacement, in which an extended temporomandibular joint replaces segmented jaw damage or damage to the skull base. One of the many benefits of Luke's

minimally invasive titanium implant technique is the lack of scarring. John's quality of life was dramatically improved after seeing Luke for a total TMJ replacement, a procedure that's only offered once all other treatment options have been exhausted. He'd suffered with synovial chondromatosis (jaw joint tumour) for years, was in pain and had a large lump on his face that prevented him from chewing on that side. Opening his mouth had become increasingly painful. Luke removed the tumour and replaced John's TMJ joint on the problematic side with a titanium joint. John says: "I'm feeling very good. There's no lump anymore and I can eat normally. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend Mr Cascarini and the operation has been a success." See the computer model of John's new custom-made titanium jaw joint in the image (bottom left).

**Digital technology revolutionises jaw correction**

Luke is also an expert in orthognathic (corrective jaw) surgery. Orthognathic surgery to correct the size or position of mismatched jaws can be enormously beneficial, improving function, appearance and self-image. Usually performed in conjunction with a specialist orthodontist to ensure the correct positioning of the teeth, it involves the jaws being divided before being realigned and fixed in their correct position and, because the procedure is mainly performed inside the mouth, there's minimal scarring.

Traditionally, surgical splints have been used to reposition the jaw, but Luke is at the forefront of another new approach – the use of computer-designed cutting guides and 3D-printed custom titanium fixation plates, which can now deliver stunningly accurate results.

**Centre for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery**

Luke has set up the Centre for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, which brings together a group of leading oral and maxillofacial specialists who provide the highest standards of patient care and access to these latest treatments.

Based at Harley Street Specialist Hospital just off London's Harley Street, the centre's consultants are trained in both dentistry and oral and maxillofacial surgery, enabling them to treat the full range of mouth, head, face, dental and neck conditions. The team performs straightforward dental procedures, such as wisdom teeth removal and dental implants together with more complex procedures including reconstructive jaw surgery and facial plastic surgery.

● **To book an appointment or to find out more about leading jaw treatment in London, contact E: [LC@OS.clinic](mailto:LC@OS.clinic) T: 020 7046 8013 or visit [lukecascarini.com](http://lukecascarini.com)**

**LUKE CASCARINI**  
Consultant Oral Maxillofacial Surgeon