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(Editor's Note: If you have a clinical or practice management Pearl to share with your colleagues, send it to JCO, 1828 Pearl St., Boulder, CO 80302. Appropriate illustrations are welcome; a photograph of the author and a copyright transfer form are required prior to publication.)

Debonding Day

Any debonding in my office is the occasion for a small celebration at which the patient is given balloons, popcorn, and other "forbidden" foods, along with a Polaroid snapshot of his or her new smile taken with me and several of the clinical staff. Once a month, we schedule as many debondings as we can accommodate on a special Debonding Day. The staff and I dress in formal attire, and we set out popcorn, candy, and soft drinks to create a real party atmosphere in the office.

Patients and their families appreciate all the attention and hoopla celebrating their successful completion of full orthodontic treatment; staff members also have a good time. The effect on both referrals and office morale has been noticeable.

ROBERT E. BREWKA, DDS, MS
14 W. Dry Creek Circle
Littleton, CO 80120



Top: Patients (left to right) Megan George, Stephen Dixon, and Shawna Koller show off their new smiles with Stephen's mother, Sally Dixon, and Dr. Brewka. Bottom: Megan enjoys some popcorn with her mother, Jenna Messina.