NEW YORK, USA/LEIPZIG, Germany: Treating tall people can be a challenge but what if your patient measures a staggering 2.46 metres? Ask Dr Eric Johnson, a Californian dentist. Two months ago, he treated Sultan Kösen, the world’s tallest man according to the Guinness World Records.

The part-time farmer, born and raised in a small town in Turkey, was diagnosed with pituitary gigantism after doctors discovered a tumour behind his eyes triggering the overproduction of growth hormones. One of the many problems resulting from this condition was an increased spacing of his teeth.

According to Dr Johnson, Kösen’s dental anatomy is of average size. However, his growth escalated after his dentition was complete. Prior to his makeover in the US there was a skeletal discrepancy due to the continual growth of his facial structure.

The overall treatment involved two hours of periodontal therapy, as well as ultrasonic scaling, root planning and the extraction of three unrestorable teeth. The team restored 23 surfaces with direct composite, placed 16 veneers, one CEREC crown, one 3-unit FPD and a maxillary partial denture, as well as did root–canal treatment on one tooth.

According to Dr Johnson, should Kösen continue to grow, his Class III malocclusion will continue. He has contacted a dentist in Kösen’s home-town who will do the follow-up dental care. Kösen will also need to continue to have regular periodontal maintenance and have a few more direct composites completed. “Appropriate evaluations and on-going maintenance are key in ensuring longevity for his restorations,” he concludes.

(Edited by Daniel Zimmermann, DTI)