

## Dental Implants

### • What is a Dental Implant?

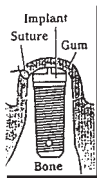
An implant is a man-made replacement for natural roots of teeth (foundation). This allows us to restore fixed teeth, which we see in the mouth. We may select from several categories of dental implants. This would depend on the information which we obtain from x-rays, models of your mouth, your specific needs, and general dental condition.

The ultimate goal is to replace and restore missing teeth into better function without losing more bone (foundation of teeth).

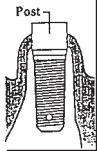
### • How do we evaluate for implants (restoring missing teeth)?

#### Love at First Bite

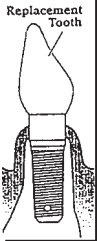
1 The surgeon opens the gums, drills into the jawbone and implants a plug of titanium. After several months the bone bonds firmly to the implant.



2 When the bone has grown around the titanium, the surgical specialist attaches a metal post to the implant.



3 During four weeks of patient's visits, a dentist who specializes in restoration fits the newly fashioned tooth and finally screws or cements it to the metal post.



If teeth are lost, then the supporting periodontal tissue (bone and gums) is also lost over time. As the gums and bone disappear, problems with other teeth, lack of support for dentures, partial dentures, and fixed bridge work increase. *This is where we like to start the evaluation process!*

If a person is interested and a good candidate for dental implants then we like to do an extensive "implant work-up." This implant evaluation address' Medical and Dental concerns and includes a Dental evaluation of the TMJ (jaw joint), Caries, and Periodontal status. Once he has determined that these areas are adequately stabilized, then bone type is categorized along with determining measurements of available bone for the Maxillary and Mandibular ridges (Upper & Lower jaws)——Since these structures will be the foundation for the Dental implant.

#### About Us

- The end of the year becomes a busy time for our Dental office, if you have a "cafeteria" plan or insurance coverage requirements, you may want to discuss and coordinate these issues with Joyce to help maximize your benefits.

- There are only a handful of doctors in our region who are trained and capable of providing both the surgical and prosthetic aspect of Dental implant treatment (from start to finish). Dr. Samy is one of them, which makes it advantageous for providing complete Dental care.

## Dr. Samy's Perspectives

- It is entirely up to each person and their wants in developing a Dental treatment plan and our techniques have reached a stage where we can pretty much do anything in terms of replacing missing teeth.
- The current research and techniques for bone grafting are very exciting, and if they continue we may be able to either entirely eliminate Periodontal disease or have very predictable treatments for it!
- I sometimes get concerned about "over-retained" teeth (People wanting to hold on to non-salvageable teeth). Since Periodontal disease (loss of the supporting gums and bone) is progressive in nature which can lead to unnecessary bone loss occurring around adjacent teeth during the period before final extraction.

## Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP)

At a series of Dental implant courses and seminars sponsored by Pacific Dental Seminars study club, which I have been a member of since 1994, we explored the technique of utilizing Platelet Rich Plasma concentrate to drastically improve healing after tooth extraction, bone grafting, and Dental implant surgery.

The data and research is impressive and the technique is being used in hospitals and out patient clinics across the world for all areas of medicine. We have purchased the necessary equipment and trained the staff to prepare the platelet concentrate for the applicable procedures in our office. This technology is very exciting and we hope to help continue it's advancement in the Dental profession.

Platelet Rich Plasma is a concentration of platelets, originating from an individuals own blood, that is mixed with a calcium and thrombin mixture, to create a gel which is applied to bone or surgical wound sites to help bone regenerate, fuse, and decrease wound healing time. These by-products also help to reduce bleeding by mimicking the body's natural response to cut tissue by sealing the severed capillaries.

Since Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP) contains your own blood by-products or platelets (the donor and the recipient are the same, therefore autologous) disease transmission or rejection of grafting material is considerably reduced.

### ***Why Platelets?***

A group of proteins known as "Platelet Derived Growth Factors" are contained within Platelets. Many aspects of our physiology (especially bone generation and wound healing) are influenced by these growth factors. When applied to sites of surgery, platelets send out signals to attract more platelets from other parts of the body, in turn increasing the concentration of growth factors to the surgical site.

## **Nutrition**

### **Recommended Diet Following Extensive Dental Treatment**

**Day 1-2: Liquid diet:** soups, jello, high protein drinks (Ensure).

**Day 3-5: Pureed diet:** any food that blenderizes well; applesauce, mashed potatoes, soft boiled eggs.

**Days 6-14: Soft diet:** salisbury steak, tuna fish, boiled chicken, soup, cheeses.

**After day 14:** Return to **normal diet**.

### **Are Dental Implants for you?**

#### **How do you feel about your mouth?**

Do you feel uncomfortable about missing teeth?  Yes  No

Do Dental appliances cause discomfort when you smile or talk?  Yes  No

Do you experience other pain or distress due to mouth or jaw problems?  Yes  No

If you answered "Yes" to any of the above, please discuss the issues with us at your next appointment.

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