

Ask The Dentists

Dear Dr. Winter, I would like to inquire about the cost of mini implants. I actually just learned about them after finding out I need a partial for 6 missing teeth in a row on my upper left. I am interested in finding out your mini implant prices without extractions, bone grafting, or X-Rays. How much difference in price is there from a three teeth bridge to a 6-tooth bridge? Also, are your mini implant procedures done the same day?

Dear Jean, mini-implants are not used for posterior bridgework. The narrow diameter of the implant (1.8mm wide) and the hard chewing would lead to failure of the mini-implants and the bridgework! There may be some dentists that are willing to do a large bridge with mini-implants but that would never be done at Hampton Dental Associates. Again making a large bridge and anchoring it to very small pins would lead to the bridge being pushed left and right during chewing. That is why the FDA has approved mini-implants for long-term use for retaining dentures and partial dentures.

Another complicating factor is that the bone in the upper jaw is not very dense compared to the lower arch. Maxillary bone is like Styrofoam or balsa wood compared to pine or oak in the lower jaw.

Mini-implants are used to retain dentures or partials or to hold on to a single crown in the lower front of the mouth. Other than that you would require a minimum of 3 implants for replacing 6 teeth. I would be happy to discuss traditional implant bridges, extractions, grafting and any other treatment options if you wish to schedule a comprehensive examination and x-ray visit. Giving fees without seeing x-rays or examining your bite and adjacent teeth would be guessing as several factors go into calculating the best treatment options. If you still have teeth in the upper arch and there are 6 teeth that need to be removed it is probable that there are issues



Drs. Richard and Bruce Winter

on the other side of the mouth as well that need to be diagnosed and addressed. Sometimes implant options can be discussed to address all of your problems at one time. I am sorry you are having problems and are faced with tooth loss. Please take the time to read my articles and view our testimonials at www.hamptondentalassociates.com

I put a lot of information on these pages to educate our readers.

Please read Upgradeable Dentistry Part II and III as these will discuss mini-implants in much more detail! Then call our office at 414-464-9021 to schedule your implant or mini-implant appointment today!

Yours for better dentistry,
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Master Academy of General Dentistry
Diplomate International Congress of
Oral Implantologists
Diplomate American Board of
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