

Ask The Dentists

Dear Dr. Winter, I want to know how much implants cost as I am missing my two front teeth. Thank you! Dee

Dear Dee, I get questions all the time about costs over the internet and via the "ask the dentist" column. The cost for a dental implant is dependent upon the amount of bone you have, the condition of your other teeth and your esthetic desires. Some laboratories are standard labs that mass produce crowns and while the esthetics can be acceptable; if your natural teeth have different colors, textures and you have a full smile display, you may require a more detailed microscopic dental lab. At Hampton Dental Associates we take photos of the teeth pre-operatively and by using detailed photos with shade tabs we try and customize every crown for ideal esthetics! Also if someone has periodontal disease or gum problems on other teeth it can influence how these implants can look so you may require provisional restorations to help the gum tissues mature so we can create a natural looking smile. We offer complimentary consultations to try and give people more detailed answers about costs. Please call us at 414-464-9021 and we would be happy to see you!

Dear Dr. Winter, I have had Invisalign for 2 years and my teeth are simply not moving. The dentist is frustrated and now wants me to spend more money to have braces put on. Is this normal? Very upset in Milwaukee.

A: The ability to move teeth is dependent upon how severely they are crowded, how much space you have (or don't have), the need to correct midlines, overbites, under-bites and rotations. Using plastic aligners to correct severe dental problems can be quite challenging. The key to using aligner therapy is to have realistic expectations as to what can be achieved and case selection. Not everyone is a candidate for aligner therapy. If you have problems with the treatment you are having you may need a different form of treatment such as full braces with or without extractions to accomplish your goals. Ask your dentist why your treatment is not progressing and see what options they are willing to offer you to correct this or seek a second opinion.

Dear Dr. Winter, I want mini-implants to hold my lower denture down but my dentist says I don't have enough bone. Can you help me?

A: Dear J, Sometimes people simply do not have enough bone for implants or mini-implants and advanced grafting or a sub-periosteal implant is needed.



Drs. Richard and Bruce Winter

Bone grafting adds bone by taking it from your chin area, your hip area or using special bone morphogenic proteins –strong growth factors with donated bone to create bone. Other times a special frame can be constructed that sits above the bone with pegs that go into your mouth to allow a denture to snap on to these posts. This sub-periosteal implant is another option if you truly do not have enough bone. We are happy to do free implant consultations or comprehensive exams for our readers! Please call us at 414-464-9021 to schedule your visit!

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