

Ask The Dentists

Dear Dr. Winter, I spent a lot of time on your website and want to know the best way to have implants. I have read a lot about same day teeth, implants in a day, all on 4 and it's very confusing.

Dear Jamie, the type of implant treatment you have depends upon a lot of factors such as the amount of bone you have, the quality of the bone, your budget, your goals and your overall health. When we do treatment plans for patients we use a concept Dr. Winter has published articles about called "Upgradeable Dentistry." This concept acknowledges that each patient has different needs, wants, desires and budgets. So patients can select options that sequentially improve a person's condition until they get the type of implant prosthesis they desire.

If a patient wants 4 implants to support an entire missing arch of teeth the treatment called "All-On-4" can be an option and in some instances teeth can be made to sit on these implants on the same day as they are placed. The problem is that loading or putting forces on implants the day they are placed depends on having dense bone so the insertion of the implants is solid and it takes a certain amount of torque to insure the implants are tight enough to place forces on them or they can fail. This is one type of treatment that can be successful and while it has plenty of literature to support this concept the use of more implants is the philosophy that we use in our practice. Having 7-9 implants to support 14 missing teeth distributes forces over more "posts" than just 4 posts. In performing surgery and restorative treatment we offer discounts based upon the number of implants placed so we can make implant treatment more affordable.

By offering mini-implants, snap-on-dentures, cement retained dentures, full porcelain bridges on implants we can provide services that fit every budget. For those that wish more extensive treatment we have several interest free financing options that you can learn about on our website: www.hamptondentalassociates.com

Dear Dr. Winter how do I know if I should have my teeth removed and have implants versus periodontal surgery for the third time?

Dear Charles, periodontal surgery will remove diseased gum tissue, smooth the bone to make it more cleansable and should only need to be done one time, ideally to help preserve teeth that didn't respond to traditional deep cleanings. When someone needs multiple surgeries it could be a sign that significant bone has been lost. The discussion that needs to occur would be how long you wish to retain your teeth and are they causing any pain



Drs. Richard and Bruce Winter

or cosmetic problems. Some times teeth that have lost bone have "black triangles" that represent where bone loss and recession can create a person that looks "long in the tooth" or esthetically displeasing.

Once a person's chief concerns are addressed the options can be discussed, the tissues evaluated and the budget understood so the best treatment can be rendered based upon a persons conditions.

We would be happy to perform a second opinion or comprehensive examination and x-ray visit for our readers! Please call us at 414-464-9021 to schedule your visit. We invite you to visit our new website at www.hamptondentalassociates.com For photos and videos of our dentistry and information about implants and cosmetics. We look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Winter
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