

# Ask The Dentists

Dear Dr. Winter, I have a slight under-bite, otherwise, my teeth are actually quite straight. I had braces on my top teeth at a young age and as I grew up my under-bite worsened. This under-bite has resulted in some unnatural wear and chipping on a couple of my top teeth. Do you have any non-surgery solutions available?

Dear Ted, there are many options for fixing underbites that are non-surgical but I cannot comment on your options until I have completed an examination and x-ray visit. Sometimes orthodontics can correct your problem other times crowns can be used to change your bite. So surgery is always the last option considered. It is important to remember that once significant wear and chipping has occurred, the teeth that caused this chipping also need to be corrected to recover the space that was lost from these teeth erupting in to the chipped areas.

Dear Dr. Winter, I had a tooth break at the gumline. I really don't want a bridge as I have heard they have to shave down the other teeth and those teeth will be weakened. I am also concerned that I might need bone grafting to have an implant. What is your opinion about placing implants the same day the tooth comes out? Can this help me avoid a bone graft?

Dear John, the ability to place an implant the day the tooth is removed is dependent on several factors. First the remaining bone should be intact and thicker than 1.5 mm so that there is good blood supply to fill in the gap between the implant and the remaining tooth socket. Next there should be good stabilization of the implant and if it can not be placed with good insertion torque, it may be better to graft the socket and come back in 3 months to place the implant after bone fill has occurred. The literature supports both means



*Drs. Richard and Bruce Winter*

of placing implants but it is still dependent upon clinician skill, bone quality and quantity and cosmetic expectations of the patient.

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](http://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

MAGD, DICOI, DABOI/ID

Master Academy of General Dentistry

Diplomate International Congress of  
Oral Implantologists

Diplomate American Board of Oral

Implantologists/Implant Dentists

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