

Ask The Dentist Jan 2013

Dear Dr. Winter, I just read your article in December's Dentistry Today on your web site and wanted to congratulate you on being on the cover of this prestigious Journal! I also noticed you were voted a top Dentist in "M" magazine in December for cosmetics and prosthodontics as voted on by your peers. I am happy to be a patient of yours and wanted to offer you my sincere congratulations!

Dear Jim, thank you for the nice letter. I was very fortunate to be recognized for these accomplishments and realize there are many wonderful dentists that may not have had this recognition but are as dedicated as I am to providing the best dental care available for our patients. If others wish to read this latest article they may go to winterdental.com under publications type in Username: visitor and Password: smile

Dear Dr. Winter, I am 28 and have big tori by my tongue, which are those bumps of bone. I have noticed my teeth are weak and I have lost two teeth recently. Is that because of my mandibular tori? I have no insurance so haven't gone to the dentist but now I am having a crisis as these two missing teeth show when I smile. Help!

Dear Jennifer, tori wouldn't be the reason for you to lose teeth. If you have lost teeth it is a sign you have either severe decay or periodontal disease or both. You need to address this to avoid loss of additional teeth. As to dental insurance it usually only covers up to \$1000 per year so is only there for small problems. We offer interest free financing to help people afford dentistry even if they don't have insurance. In fact, avoiding dentistry due to cost can lead to much more extensive and expensive dentistry so it is always better to take care of problems when they are small.

Dear Dr. Winter, I am in the process of having a partial made with a "clip" attachment. I am interested in seeing if I can use "mini-implants" for an attachment rather than clips. My dentist doesn't do implants (standard or mini), and has indicated that the partial can't be sustained by mini implants. He says the only way mini implants can be used is with a full denture.

Dear John, 40-60% of partials end up in a drawer within 3 year of being made. That is because they move, lift up and can cause food impaction after meals. They can lead to loosening of the teeth they are clipped to as well as bone loss over time. Mini-implants are certainly an option to stabilize these dentures assuming there is enough bone to place these devices. Precision attachments are connected to roots or crowns and give the partial denture something to hook on to. Mini-implants are another option and can be used if traditional implants cannot be done due to lack of bone or proximity to nerve structures. Your dentist may not be familiar with this use for mini dental implants.

We welcome patients to come in for a complimentary consultation or comprehensive new patient exam. Please call us at 414-464-9021 to schedule your visit and visit us at www.winterdental.com for examples of our work.

Richard Winter D.D.S. M.A.G.D. D.I.C.O.I.
Master Academy of General Dentistry
Diplomate International Congress of Oral Implantologists
Bruce Winter D.D.S.
Clinical professor Marquette Univ. Dental School