

Ask The Dentists

Dear Dr. Winter, please help me understand whether full mouth implants are better than keeping my own teeth. I have gum disease but it's really, only bad in one area of my mouth. My dentist just told me I need All-On-4 implants in each arch. I am only 35 and am concerned about losing all of my own teeth at such a young age.

Dear S. There is a lot of marketing regarding All-On-4 dental implant treatment centers. I obviously need to see you and do a complete examination to discuss your personal and unique situation but I can tell you that people are unique! One treatment protocol does not work nor should it be planned for all patients. The reason people choose to put an entire arch of "teeth" on 4 implants is that either they do not wish to undergo bone grafting or sinus augmentation or they have limited finances and can't afford the procedures to build the foundation to place more implants.

While All-on-4 is a protocol that works, and is well documented, the ability to replace 14 teeth with 4 implants and a fixed hybrid (screwed in denture) is placing a lot of stress on 4 implants. My training with the Misch International Implant Institute (One of the leading Implant teaching institutions in the world), as well as the training I have received over the last few decades has taught me that implants are the most important part of a reconstruction and using more is almost always better than just using 4.

Some people greatly improve their lives with 2 implants and a Snap-on-denture but that is a removable denture.

If someone has the bone and finances to place 4 implants that will give more stability and support then two implants but you would still have a removable denture that needs to be removed each night. When 4 implants are placed, we can also build a bar to connect those 4 implants and make a metal reinforced overdenture in the lower arch to give a really secure prosthesis that is using all 4 splinted implants for great support.

If someone places 5 or more implants in the lower arch or 6 or more implants in the upper arch they may then have "fixed" or non-removable teeth! This number of implants will allow the forces to be spread around the arch and have enough individual implants to stabilize high chewing forces like required for eating steak and crunchy vegetables!

So, implants can be placed as you can afford them! Place 2 or 4 and have an overdenture. Then save up and place 2 or more implants and Upgrade to a bar



Drs. Richard and Bruce Winter

overdenture or a screw retained hybrid denture or place 2 or more again and get fixed teeth with either a Zirconia bridge (like a white metal which is very strong but slightly less esthetic) or a porcelain fused to gold bridge which is the prettiest but more costly. Read about this under articles called Upgradeable Dentistry on our website!

Each of these options can be seen in my photo gallery at WWW.HAMPTONDENTALASSOCIATES.COM which is not only the largest photo gallery in the State but has videos, video testimonials and articles written by Dr. Richard Winter on all aspects of implant dentistry. We place the implants, perform most of the grafting and finish the prostheses all under one roof and when needed we work with surgical specialists to provide IV sedation for any needed implant reconstruction. Most implant procedures can be done with some small pills to help you relax if needed.

We offer 24 month interest free financing through Care Credit and provide financing through I-Care to insure this is affordable!

Please call 414-464-9021 to schedule your comprehensive examination today. I hope this helps! We would love to have you join our dental family.

Dr. Richard and Dr. Bruce Winter
Please see our work at www.hamptondentalassociates.com

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