

Ask The Dentists

Dear Dr. Winter, I am missing many teeth and want a permanent solution to my problem, but my dentist says I don't have enough bone for dental implants. What can I do as I am in my 50's and don't want to wear partials or dentures for the rest of my life!

Dear A., one of the biggest problems we face in implant dentistry today is the lack of education for patients that have advanced periodontal disease or loss of teeth. If we can graft areas right after teeth are removed, we often can help patients have the bone they need for implants.

When many years have passed, and the bone erodes and shrinks we must either augment or regrow the missing bone or use short implants.

I had an article published this month in November's Dentistry Today entitled: **"Managing Mandibular Atrophy (severe bone loss) with Short Implants!"**

Please go to www.hamptondentalassociates.com under publications to read this great option for patients with deficient bone.

Sometimes sinus lifts and advanced bone grafting can be avoided along with this added cost and surgical risk by using shorter implants as the technology has moved forward greatly in this area.

When short implants are not an option the options that remain are grafting by taking blocks of bone from elsewhere in your mouth or body and placing it in the mouth to regrow some of the bone that has been lost. Or tent screw grafting to also try and regrow bone volume. Sinus lifts are a way to add bone in the back of the upper jaw. This surgery involves making a small window and lifting the sinus membrane to add bone that will grow over 7-9 months and allow for implant placement in most instances. *Any way we discuss bone grafting the one truth is that growing height of bone is unpredictable and cannot be guaranteed.*

Some doctors perform procedures that place long implants through the sinuses into the cheek bone or zygoma to bypass this sinus lift procedure but again there are different risks for each of these options that your dentist should be able to explain to you for



Drs. Richard and Bruce Winter

informed consent.

When the bone has really deteriorated one of the last options, we have is called a sub-periosteal implant. These are frames that are made with a CBCT or CAT scan to sit on top of the bone and provide studs to support a denture or bridge. Again, these options and their success depend greatly upon the skill and knowledge of the doctors performing these procedures.

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. Rick and Dr. Bruce Winter
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