

Ask The Dentists

Dear Dr. Winter, I have been traveling back and forth to Chicago to have my dental work done and have a lot of problems! My crowns keep falling off and the dentist glues them on only to have them come off a week or two later. I have many missing teeth and need teeth to talk as I am in customer service and sales! Can you help me with my problem this is an emergency!

Dear S. I would be happy to get you in to evaluate your situation. When people have severe dental problems and they can no longer reliably cement crowns it is usually indicative of severe occlusal disease and decay. When you are missing teeth, the remaining teeth must pick up the slack of chewing everything without their teammates. This can create forces that overload the teeth and cause fractures. If you have a lack of tooth structure to re-cement these crowns the teeth may require root canals, posts and crown-lengthening to create a base that would support a new crown. This is often expensive and comes with no guarantees as to how long it will last. Another option may be to place implants to restore the missing teeth and the fractured root tips.

This is a controversial topic in dentistry. How hard should we try to save a tooth, a root and how much money should we spend before we decide it may be best to remove the tooth and replace it with a dental implant. So, let's discuss this.

Performing a root canal will take the nerve out of a tooth and fill the root canal with a rubber like material called gutta-percha. Some of this rubber is removed and a titanium post is cemented into the root to give an anchor for the filling or build-up of the tooth. Next, bone is removed to reveal clean fresh root to cement a crown on to. These procedures can add up to a few thousand dollars with no guarantee as to how long this will last. This needs to be compared to the removal of the tooth, placing bone in the socket and having a titanium implant placed; which can be the same cost as the procedures to "maybe" save the tooth.

So, it is incumbent upon the dentist to discuss all options, costs, advantages and disadvantages to come up with a treatment plan for the patient that also



Drs. Richard and Bruce Winter

provides an "Upgrade path" if one is needed. It is important to also look at the remaining teeth! If other teeth have severe gum disease or bone loss or if they are not restorable a more comprehensive treatment plan should be discussed! It is not prudent to spend a lot of money on one or two teeth if several others are a year or two away from needing extractions as well!

We invite our readers to go to our new website and read Dr. Richard Winter's publications on full mouth implant dentistry, Upgradeable Dentistry and other examples of how to sequentially help people with a myriad of dental problems at a budget and pace they can afford at www.hamptondentalassociates.com

Also, please like us on face book at hamptondentalassociates.com/facebook. We are fortunate to have wonderful reviews and always love it when our patients leave reviews to help others learn of their experiences at Hampton Dental Associates. We offer complimentary implant consultations and second opinions.

Please see our work at:

www.hamptondentalassociates.com

Dr. Richard Winter MAGD, DICOI,
DABOI/ID FAAID

Dr. Bruce Winter Board M.A.T.C.

Adjunct Professor Marquette Dental School