

Ask the Dentist May 2012

Dear Dr. Winter, I need one implant for tooth # 8. I'm looking for an affordable option. Please let me know my options ASAP as I need the work done within 3 months.

Dear Gloria, I can't tell you what you need without evaluating the bone that you have, your smile line, and the status and condition of your remaining teeth. Then I can give you costs, options, advantages, disadvantages and risks of each treatment option. I do not know what you mean by "affordable" as it's hard to put a price on your front tooth! Having beautiful teeth is truly priceless. The ability to smile with your own teeth is something that many people may take for granted until they have lost a tooth. Whether you chose a dental bridge which is a prosthesis that requires shaving down adjacent teeth or a dental implant that stands alone and doesn't require alteration of the neighboring teeth is a decision we can discuss at your comprehensive examination and x-ray visit. As to the cost, this can be a confusing topic as people often shop for implant prices without knowing how to compare "apples to apples."

Implants prices can vary greatly depending upon whether grafting is required to provide bone to support your implant and the type of grafting your situation requires. There are block grafts, tent screw grafts and ridge splitting grafts which all vary in cost. Then there may be a cost associated with skin grafting if the remaining gum is too thin and there is concern that some of the implants underlying color could show through. Typically the cost of an implant will include the surgical placement of the implant body, the uncovering surgery 4-6 months later when a healing cap is placed to help shape the gum tissue and the chimney (abutment) and the final crown that goes on the abutment. The cost for the chimney can vary depending upon whether this support structure can be ordered from the implant company, (a pre-fabricated abutment) or whether it needs to be custom made to accommodate a specific size or angulation of the implant which is called a custom abutment. There is a great price difference between these standard and custom abutments and the custom abutments can further be divided between zirconia (tooth colored chimneys or metal chimneys.)

Then there is the quality of the crown and the esthetics and precision of fit will vary based upon the level of the laboratory chosen. (You often get what you are willing to pay for as quality work is always more expensive.)The labs we use at Hampton Dental Associates take 6 hours to make each of our crowns and they are all made under a microscope to provide beautiful custom esthetics and a precision fit. We would be happy to see you for a new patient comprehensive examination and x-ray visit. Please call our office at 414-464-9021 to schedule your comprehensive examination and x-ray visit. We offer a cost of \$150 for a complete examination and x-ray visit for our Hometown Publication readers if they mention this column. This only applies if there is no insurance involved. Please see photos and videos of our work at WWW.WINTERDENTAL.COM

where you can also read about our interest free financial options.

Sincerely,

Richard B. 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.

Board M.A.T.C.