

Ask The Dentist May 2013

Dear Dr. Winter, I have a missing upper molar (3rd in from wisdom). I was told an implant would not work there. Are my only options a partial or permanent bridge - or is there another alternative?

Dear Donna, without seeing you I cannot comment on what your other doctor has told you. You may have deficient bone height or width that would make it more expensive to place an implant but that doesn't make the implant impossible. It just means you need to go through more steps and greater expense. You may require sinus augmentation, or block grafting to create a proper foundation for an implant. If that is the case, then perhaps a bridge is a more cost effective way to replace the missing tooth. Partial dentures put pressure on the adjacent teeth so I try to always help people to choose a fixed option versus a removable partial denture option. Nobody enjoys taking their teeth out at night before they go to sleep.

Some dentists offer Maryland or Virginia bridges, which have small wings that are cemented to the adjacent teeth. While these may be an option they can become uncemented more easily than a traditional bridge so they are not used with as much frequency as a traditional bridge.

Dear Dr. Winter, I'm very interested in a complete mouth makeover. I'm only 26, but my father and I both have severe erosion. All of my teeth will need to be removed and are worn down and decayed. Some are broken off at the bone level and I can no longer smile. Please let me know my options.

Dear Rachel, this is far too difficult to answer on the internet with no x-rays, photos or an idea of your budget. There are many levels of dentistry from dentures to Snap-on Dentures on implants to full mouth reconstruction with implants and grafting.

The question you have to ask yourself is what is your budget for this year and the next two years. Then a complete examination and x-ray visit would be performed in order to give you options for different solutions based upon what you can realistically afford. Sometimes we can offer you sequenced dentistry to offer you the dentistry in stages until you can achieve the desired results. We offer interest free financing to help with more complex treatment options. Articles on Upgradeable Dentistry as well as videos, photos and financial options can be found on our websites.

We would need to see you or any of our readers for a new patient comprehensive examination and x-ray visit. Please call our office at 414-464-9021 to schedule and let them know you contacted me via our Ask The Dentist column for a special consideration.

You can see more information about our practice at WWW.WINTERDENTAL.COM where you can go to: **Publications**

type in Username: **visitor** and Password: **smile**

These articles highlight Dr. Winter's philosophy of "Upgradeable Dentistry" which is finding the right treatment for everyone based upon their personal and financial goals

I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rick and Dr. Bruce

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

Fellowships: International College of Dentists, Academy of Dentistry International

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