

SKYLINE DENTAL, LLC

OFFICE NEWSLETTER

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DENTAL NEWS & INFORMATION

REPLACING LOST OR MISSING TEETH WITH IMPLANTS

(Excerpts from the Journal of The Academy of General Dentistry & Journal of the American Dental Association)

Even though more and more Americans are keeping their teeth for the duration of their life, there are still cases and times when a tooth is no longer restorable and needs to be extracted or removed.

Missing teeth compromise our ability to cut and chew our food. Missing teeth also affect our appearance, quality of life and the health of the adjacent teeth and bone.

With today's modern treatment plans, everything from a single missing tooth to a complete arch can be replaced and restored to full function and great esthetics.

The table to the right summarizes a few key points when comparing the various tooth replacement options. Bridges & Partial Dentures have been around for many years and continue to work well in selected situations; but implants offer so many advantages that they are slowly replacing other tooth replacement options.

Comparison of the Tooth Replacement Options

Option	Advantage	Disadvantage	Longevity of Appliance	10-year Survival of Adjacent Teeth
Implant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great esthetics Long lasting Strong Adds new teeth to mouth Spare the adjacent teeth Stimulates the surrounding bone Standard of care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves a surgical procedure Initial costs Can take several months to complete 	<p>Two different studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 96% after 14 years 95% after 14 years 	99%
Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively quick Good esthetics Strong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to shave down the adjacent teeth to serve as anchors More biting force distributed to fewer teeth Bone loss in the area of missing tooth 	<p>Three different studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 87% after 10 years 69% after 15 years 60% after 17 years 	92%
Partial or Full Denture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inexpensive compared to other options Can help replace lost gum tissues Non-invasive procedure Relatively quick 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs to be removed at night Stress on anchor teeth Bone loss in the area of missing teeth Not as esthetic as other options Size of the appliance Some mobility Food impaction 	<p>Two different studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% after 7 years 50% after 10 years 	56%

As you can tell by the table, implants are becoming the standard of care for tooth replacement. Their great long term prognosis, predictability, esthetics and outstanding function have made them superior to the other tooth replacement options which we have utilized in the past. Even though their initial cost is greater than the other tooth replacement options, they usually end up costing less in the long run, as they typically don't have to be replaced.

One other exciting new technology is the *Immediate Temporization* of an extracted tooth with an implant. One disadvantage of implants has been the length of time that it takes for the implant to integrate and fuse to the bone. The patient typically has needed to wear a temporary partial denture (or go toothless) during the healing phase of an implant which often times takes several months.

However, we now have the ability to place a temporary crown onto a newly placed implant, on the same day that the tooth is lost or extracted! The convenience of not wearing a removable appliance, along with the improved esthetics and function during the healing phase has made this option very popular when a tooth that is easily visible is lost or extracted.

The immediate temporary crown that is placed on the day of the implant placement would be replaced with a permanent crown after the proper healing time.

Immediate replacement of a missing tooth with an implant and temporary crown may not be possible, if there is an active infection in the extracted tooth socket or if the bone at the site needs to be augmented or improved.

Please ask if you have any questions or concerns. You can also find additional information about implant supported restorations on the following websites:

www.ada.org/public/topics/implants.asp
www.ada.org/prof/resources/pubs/jada/patient/patient_47.pdf
www.agd.org/public/OralHealthFacts/ (then select "Implants")
www.knowyourteeth.com (then select "InfoBites" and scroll to Implants)

OFFICE NEWS & HAPPENINGS

Your Child's Dental Health

Regular visits to the Dentist help reinforce good brushing, flossing and other healthy oral habits for children. We can start seeing kids as soon as their teeth appear; to discuss proper care of the teeth, diet/nutrition, prevention and fluoride. We love treating kids and many of the parents currently in our practice, started off as kids in our practice ☺. Feel free to bring your youngsters along with you for your cleaning appointments, so they can get comfortable and see for themselves that going to the dentist can be easy and fun.

\$20 Gift Certificates for your Referrals

As a token of appreciation to our existing patients, we will be mailing a Gift Certificate good for a *\$20 credit at our office*; when a New Patient to our office lists your name as the referral source to our dental practice.

We appreciate our existing patients and would welcome your extended family and friends into our practice. Feel free to refer your family and friends to our website (www.SkylineDentalLLC.com) for an overview of our practice, services and policies.

Please check with our Front Office for additional details about our Referral Appreciation Credit.