

Dr:O<TALK: Restorative/Operative Dentistry

Traditionally the discipline of operative dentistry has measured its changes or progress in very small increments. In many ways that is still true as there are natural limitation imposed by the environment of human dentition/ body as we proceed to correct defect in enamel, dentin and skeletal jaw deformity.

Maintenance of the body in the state of health is a goal to be sought by any practitioner of the healing arts, and the dentist is no exception. It is a careful and wise dentist who protects the oral health of his patients rather than serving only as a repairman for the damaged teeth. Dental diseases, like other disease of the body, are congenital, or infectious in nature that preventive aspect of dental care takes on their greatest significance. It does no good to place fine restorations in an environment that will destroy them in short period of time. Only by simultaneous acts of prevention and restoration can true health service be rendered.

The teeth and the mouth occupy a very important role in the personality of the individual. Missing or broken front teeth in the mouth of a teenager or any major blemish in the appearance of the teeth can create an extreme psychological handicap for the owner as he/she endeavor to establish his/her identity among his/her peer. For this reason the teeth and their appearance can definitely alter the mental health of the individual!



In the past 2 decade, the dental implant is considered to be a standard of care for the replacement of missing teeth. As we know them today, it was invented in 1952 by a Swedish orthopedic surgeon named Per-Ingvar Branemark. The implant act as a replacement for the root of the missing tooth, and it is the closest thing mimicking a natural tooth because it stands on its own without affecting the nearby teeth. Most dental implants are made of titanium which allows them to integrate with the jaw bone (osseointegration) without being recognized as a foreign object in our body. Over time, the technology and science has improved significantly which bring the rate of success close to 95% for the initial placement (the overall success rate is 85% at the end of 5 years and 80% at the end of 10 years period).



As with any surgery, there are always some risk and potential complications to patient or to the success of the implant. The risk is more related to the patient health than the aging factor of the patient; hence careful planning and medical history play an important role for the long term success. The failure of the implant usually occurs in the event of infection a condition called peri-implantitis. This refers to the inflammation of the gum tissue and the bone surrounding the implant. The most common cause is excessive biting force (which can also resulted in implant fracture) or bacterial infection which can result in the loss of implant if left untreated.

Therefore; it is a paramount for the patient after getting dental implant to have a routine maintenance care at home and follow up appointment at the dental office. The appointment is consisted of regular removal of calculus, plaque or food debris and the bite adjustment if necessary. This appointment must be repeated every six months.

Now, here is the most commonly question that was being asked by my patients. Is the implant tooth is the same as natural tooth? The answer is “Absolutely NOT”. The implant is the treatment of choice if and only when you already have a missing tooth, but not as a primary replacement of a broken down repairable tooth. Therefore; t is very important for our patient to explore every possible restorative option to retain their own original dentition/tooth instead of replacing them for the implant just for the sake of (placing) the implant alone from the practitioner.

I hope this short article will help our viewer/patient with more understanding about the dental implant. For more information how to save your teeth or to retain your own dentition to fit for the dental prosthetic, please contact our office. We will give you a true and un-bias opinion.



