

Implant Prostheses

(ARTIFICIAL TEETH SUPPORTED BY IMPLANTS)

We have done our best to provide you with a well-fitted, functional, and esthetic implant prosthesis. We feel confident that you will adjust to these artificial teeth/tooth rapidly, and that you will have many years of satisfaction from them.

1. Your First Few Weeks: For several days, please chew more carefully than normal on these restorations. We will adjust the bite (occlusion) at future appointments if necessary, until the teeth are well balanced. After you have adjusted to the prosthesis, it should function in a similar manner to your natural teeth. Remember however that an implant is different than your natural tooth in that it lacks nerves and supporting ligaments. For this reason the “feel” of an implant supported prosthesis is always different than that of a natural tooth and requires an adjustment period in order for you to become accustomed to it. As with your natural teeth, we encourage you to avoid chewing hard foods and objects directly on the prosthesis as this can cause pre-mature failure of the material (fracture of porcelain or zirconia).

2. Cleaning the Implants and Prosthesis: The continuing success of the implants and prosthesis is up to you. Implant prostheses lack the type of attachment to gum tissues that your natural teeth have and thus require more focused care to prevent the invasion of bacteria and food debris. Please do the following:

a. Visit us for an examination and cleaning of the teeth and prosthesis at least once every 6 months (for some patients this may be every 3 or 4 months).

b. Clean the implant(s) and prostheses daily, especially before bedtime using:

___ Soft Bristled Toothbrush

___ Floss

___ Bridge cleaner

___ Water Pik

___ Apply a disinfectant such as Hydrogen Peroxide or Chlorhexidine around the implants and then expectorate any excess

Please ask us about anything that is unclear relative to proper cleaning techniques around your new prosthesis.

3. The Future: Your examination and professional cleaning appointments are very important to the long-term success of your implants and prosthesis. If your personal and professional cleanings and your examination appointments are accomplished routinely, your restorations should serve you for many years. Please contact us if any of the following conditions occur: • Awareness of looseness • Peculiar taste • Clicking or metallic snap while eating • Breakage of a piece of the prosthesis • Redness in the gum tissue around the implant • Feeling of the bite being different • Pain

We look forward to helping you enjoy your new implant supported prosthesis.