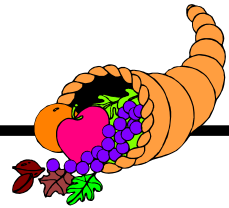


TOOTH TALK

THE NEWSLETTER THAT FILLS YOU IN!



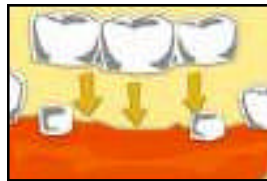
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OUT OF THE DOCTOR'S MOUTH

Restoration with a Dental Implant

Traditionally, to replace an extracted or missing tooth a non-removable **"bridge"** has been placed to keep surrounding teeth in position maintaining the dental arch's, integrity. More recently, **"implants"** are being used as a viable, and not necessarily more expensive, alternative to a bridge.



Non-removable Bridge

A dental implant is nothing more than a metal (titanium) screw that is placed into the jaw bone. Once integrated into the bone, the implant becomes an anchor or foundation for placement of a crown or a set of false teeth.

Anyone in reasonable health who wants to replace missing teeth is a candidate for dental implants. You must have enough bone in the area to provide anchorage and support for the implant. If bone support is not adequate there are procedures that may be used to augment or enhance the existing bone to enable the bone to accommodate the implant.

The actual procedure to place an implant is done under local anesthetic and is generally not painful.

Why use an implant instead of a bridge? Suppose you are missing your lower left first molar. If a bridge were used, both the tooth in front and behind the missing tooth would have to be prepared for crowns to accommodate the bridge, even if nothing was wrong with them. As a result, both teeth would have to be treated in order to replace the missing tooth. If an implant

with a crown is used the implant would be placed at the site of the missing tooth thereby avoiding unnecessary treatment with crowns of the teeth in front and behind the missing tooth.



A single dental implant with crown

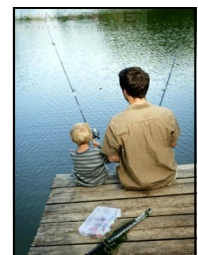
Other than fixed bridge work, implants are the only way to replace missing teeth with something that does not come in and out. Even when a bridge is no longer an option, implants can usually still be used. In conclusion, an implant and crown cost about the same as a three-unit bridge and do not require treatment of adjacent teeth to cause restoration.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: By appt. only
 Tuesday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 Wednesday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 Friday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 Closed 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. for Lunch

BRUSH FOR YOUR HEALTH!

Good oral health could be an indicator of your overall health. Evidence is mounting that people with periodontal (gum) disease may be more at risk for heart disease and strokes. That's because bacteria from the gum disease may enter the blood stream and cause small clots that may contribute to the buildup of fatty deposits inside heart arteries. For more information see: http://www.cigna.com/health/consumer/dental/dental_health_index.html



**We Donate \$1.00
to the
*Literacy
Connection*
for each
Cleaning Visit
You Make!**

THE LITERACY CONNECTION

Become a Volunteer Classroom Helper!



The Literacy Connection Program of the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County is a non-profit organization that recruits and prepares volunteers to be academic helpers in classrooms where teachers have asked for help. Imagine the joy of mentoring a child one-on-one to experience success in the classroom!

Schools in Santa Rosa, Roseland, Wright and other districts need your help now, and the opportunity is available to all ages who

Our patients funded the placement of four (4) volunteer mentors in local classrooms last quarter just by making their Cleaning Visits!

want to help. Programs include:

📖 Teen Tutoring. For high school students to work in an after-school program helping younger stu-

dents and to earn community service hours.

📖 Service Learning. Open to high school and college-aged students to earn class credit with teacher involvement.

📖 Adult. Adults working one-on-one with students in K-12th grades.

For more information, call Barbara Fisher, Literacy Coordinator, at (707) 573-3399, Ext. 122 (if you are over 55 ask about the RSVP program), or visit the Literacy Connection web site at:

www.volunteercenter.now

CANCELLATION POLICY

We Reserve Appointments Especially for You!

Appointments at our office are held open and reserved especially for you. As a courtesy to our patients, in addition to mailing recall reminders, we call each scheduled patient 48 hours and again at 24 hours prior to the appointment to confirm.

**Appointments Broken Without Sufficient Notice
Prevent Us From Treating Other Patients In Need**

If you are unable to make an appointment you have scheduled with us, please notify us at least 48 hours in advance. We would be happy to reschedule the appointment at a more convenient time. We appreciate your cooperation with this policy and look forward to continuing to meet your dental health needs.

CARECREDIT FINANCING PLAN

Are you putting off needed dental treatment because of lack of financing? We are now offering **CareCredit**, a California Dental Association endorsed program, to assist our patients in financing their treatment plans. The program offers flexible and reasonable financing options, including no-interest (we pay the financing fee for you!) and extended-payment plans. The credit decision only takes a few minutes and there are no annual fees or prepayment penalties. For more information and a brochure on this financing option talk to Anita in the front office.

OSTEONECROSIS OF THE JAW



Advise your dentist if you take bisphosphonates to treat osteoporosis (bone density loss) or cancer

Osteonecrosis of the jaw (ONJ) is a rare but serious loss or destruction of the jawbone. In rare instances patients being treated with intravenous bisphosphonates for cancer have developed ONJ. More rarely, ONJ

has developed in patients taking oral bisphosphonates (such as *Fosamax* by Merck & Co.) to prevent or treat osteoporosis or Paget's disease.

If you use a bisphosphonate medication to prevent or treat osteoporosis, or as part of cancer treatment, you should advise your dentist. Patients should receive regular dental visits during bisphosphonate therapy and practice good oral hygiene.

Additional protective measures include minimizing possible jaw trauma through use of soft linings/minimizing sharp edges on dentures and ensuring that prosthodontics fit properly

and do not have sharp edges. It is also recommended that, if possible, patients should avoid dental surgery during treatment with bisphosphonates.

If you are considering starting bisphosphonate therapy, have a dental examination so the dentist can determine if a surgical dental procedure is required that could be performed prior to starting the therapy.

Because ONJ is rare, researchers cannot yet predict who will develop it. The consensus is that good oral hygiene along with regular dental care is the best way to lower your risks.

“Good oral hygiene along with regular dental care is the best way to lower your risk of osteonecrosis”

REFERRAL PROGRAM

Join Our Referral Program and Win!

Refer a patient to our office and be placed in a drawing to win a:

\$100 gift certificate to a local restaurant.

The next nine names drawn will win a:

\$15.00 gift certificate to Starbucks.

The more patients you refer the better your chances.

Good Luck!

CONGRATULATIONS TO
TOM AND CHERYL LETTICH
WINNERS OF A \$100.00 DINNER!



A Heartfelt Thank You to the Next 9 Winners Drawn:
Elise Copeland, Stephanie Gaul, Sharen Grable, Dee Johnson, Kelly Langston, Barbara Lamb, Bob Melody, Roy Parkin and Wendy Sinnaeve
Enjoy Your Starbucks's Gift Certificates!



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WE ARE ON THE WEB!

www.CostanzaSantaRosaDentist.com

TONGUE IN CHEEK

Bring this completed Dental Word Teaser to your next appointment and receive a \$5.00 gift certificate to Starbucks. Good Luck!

Unscramble these four jumbled words one letter to each square to form common words.

LIMPRIG

DALIHoy

MAYFLI

SHINOWBE

Now arrange the letters in the RED boxes to form the surprise answer as suggested by the cartoon to the right.

Why did the police arrest the turkey?



They suspected it of

“ ”

Answer in the next newsletter!

Answer to last puzzle:

The “Brush Off”

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

