

## **Overview of Dental Implant “Teeth in a Day”**

Dental implants are quickly becoming the treatment of choice for millions of patients when facing the need for replacing one or more missing teeth. Not all implant surgeons or procedures are the same and dental implant “Teeth in a Day” should only be considered after the patient has reviewed the facts and options for their particular case. In fact, there are significant differences from one area of the mouth to another. The location and number of missing teeth can significantly change the required level of experience, time and adjunctive procedures needed to ensure the optimal outcome and desired longevity of the replacement tooth. As you have undoubtedly heard on the news, TV or radio, some procedures allow the ability to place implants and secure replacement teeth to them in as little as one day. However, in most cases this is not the appropriate treatment option to provide a long-lasting replacement solution. In fact, only a small minority of patient conditions are suited for this treatment option, and though marketing has focused on this treatment option, it is important to consider your specific needs prior to trying to fit your situation into a narrow window. Below is a list we have developed to help determine if this is the appropriate treatment option for you.

### **How many teeth are you trying to replace?**

- It is important to note that the vast majority of immediate replacement of your existing teeth with permanent “teeth in a day” generally requires the removal of ALL of your remaining teeth as well as significant contouring of your jawbone.
- Only a very limited number of conditions allow a single tooth to be removed and replaced in one day.

### **What is meant by “permanent teeth in a day”?**

- This phrase has two parts. “permanent” and “teeth in a day”.
  - Permanent is not your final permanent teeth. They are nearly always a temporary dental prosthesis, a converted denture that is fixated temporarily to your implants. It takes several months and appointments to complete your “final permanent” dental prosthesis.
  - “Teeth in a day” Represents this temporary prosthesis and though is very often comfortable and esthetically pleasing, it is a relatively delicate device and there are many dietary restrictions during the initial healing phase of 4-6 months leading to your final prosthesis.

### **Why does it take so long for my tooth to be replaced when I get a dental implant?**

- Dental implants utilize the natural biologic bone healing processes to chemically fixate the titanium to the bone, (Osseointegration). This process begins when the implant is placed in the bone and continues to integrate to the bone for the next 12-24 months. In fact, initially the implant loses stability during the first 2-8 weeks and then begins to strengthen over the next several months. It is generally considered “stable” enough for dental uses after the first 4-6 months.

**Why is it okay to *immediately* put teeth on the implant if I remove *all* my teeth but not for individual teeth?**

- The answer lies in simple mechanics. A single implant is like a post being cemented into a hole. A single implant is only supported by the bone in which it is placed. Any movement during the initial healing phase weakens the bonding to the bone. When 4 or more dental implants are strategically placed, and splinted together it functions like a four-post table and when pressures on one side of the prosthesis are exerted, the other implants help support the one being loaded. This prevents any major forces from being placed on any one implant and minimizes movement of the implant resulting in the failure described for a single implant.
- For optimal long-term functional results, as documented in thousands of researched clinical trials, when replacing a tooth with a dental implant it is still advised to let your dental implant fuse to the bone during an undisturbed healing process with a time period between 3-6 months.