

Chew on This

Implant-secured restorations can increase function, self-esteem, and quality of life.

Frank Gentiluomo wasn't happy with his faultlessly constructed partial.

"It fit perfectly," remembers Frank. "I had no complaints about that, but I really disliked the fact that it required glue.

"It's difficult to walk around with false teeth. When I went out to parties or other activities, I was always worrying about my teeth falling out. And I was very uncom-

Advanced Dental Cosmetic Center, P.A.

J. Terry Alford, DMD, and Associates

fortable with the thought of constantly ingesting glue. Finally I asked my dentist, *Isn't there something we can do?*"

Frank's dentist, J. Terry Alford, DMD, of Advanced Dental Cosmetic Center in Bradenton, assured him there was and explained to him about implant-secured restorations.

"A dental implant is a man-made tooth root that is surgically placed into the jawbone," educates Dr. Alford. "Teeth restorations can then be securely attached to these new roots.

"We can do a number of restorative procedures using implants, including providing a solid base for retention of dentures."



Frank's implant-secured restorations are both functional and handsome.



By supporting dentures with implants, patients gain three big pluses. Number one is chewing efficiency. Patients will increase the nutrition they get from the foods they eat. Second, chewing will be more comfortable. The dentures will be more stable and will stay in place. And third, the implants will prevent severe bone loss, helping patients retain their facial form.

"Because implants are made from titanium, they fuse to the bone through a process called osteointegration,"

informs the doctor, "providing us with a tremendous support system."

Once the implants are placed, Dr. Alford designs the restorations that will be attached to the implants.

"In creating the restorations, we begin with dentures," describes Dr. Alford. "To get a perfect fit, we need to set the teeth in the correct spot, accomplish the right bite, set the height and width of that bite, support the lip structure — what we call the *wet/dry line* — so the midlines are placed correctly, and ensure that the eye teeth are placed properly with the correct inclination.

"This is all done in wax and then is placed into the mouth to verify its functionality and appearance. We check all the elements I just mentioned, including the cusp-to-fossa relationship, confirming that the cusp tip fits in the groove on the opposing tooth. We also substantiate that the teeth will be equally placed between

the cheeks and tongue so that there is adequate space for maximum function."

A mold is then taken of the wax-up to be used to fabricate the final prosthesis.

"Our patients work with us to select the color to be sure they are happy with the final results," assures Dr. Alford.

Nobody knows

"I love them," acknowledges Frank. "I absolutely love them. They look perfect, and there is nothing I can't do with them that I could do with my natural teeth. I can eat steak, chew an apple,

and eat corn on the cob.

"As far as I'm concerned, they are just like the teeth I was born with; I can't even tell I have implants. I brush them in my mouth every day just like everyone else. It's just unbelievable. I love it.

"I'm so pleased. They've made me feel younger and look better, and they've given me a lot of self-confidence.

"They are fabulous. They have improved my whole quality of life."

FHCN—Kris Kline

Learn more

Everyone at Advanced Dental Cosmetic Center looks forward to meeting the readers of Florida Health Care News. For additional information or to schedule an appointment, please call (941) 792-3033. Their office is located at Park Place Professional Park, 6220 Manatee Ave. West, Suite 401, in Bradenton.



J. Terry Alford, DMD, practices general, cosmetic, and restorative dentistry in Bradenton. He received his undergraduate degree from Rollins College, Winter Park, and his dental degree from the University of Alabama, Birmingham, with additional training in anesthesia. Dr. Alford has also received additional training in implant dentistry. He is a member of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, American Academy of Implant Dentistry, American Dental Association, Florida Dental Association, and Manatee County Dental Society. He spent six years in the U.S. Air Force as a jet pilot instructor and was decorated for his service in Vietnam.

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