

Summer 2006

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www.westerhoutdds.com
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Dear Patient and Friends,

This newsletter arrives with information about several exciting developments in our practice. Thank you for taking the time to read it, and please look for it in your mail box on a quarterly basis as part of our on-going commitment to educating you, our valued patients, about what dentistry has to offer you.

Your thoughts and comments are welcome, and we look forward to hearing from you at any time.

AN UPDATE ON DR. DALE

We're happy to report that Dr. Dale Westerhout is recovering from treatment for oesophageal cancer, and is now in the office on an occasional basis to help with administrative matters, and to keep in contact with patients and staff members.

"I'd like to thank the many people who sent their best wishes during this difficult time, and who kept me in their thoughts and prayers. It was a tremendous source of comfort and strength to me and my family."

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

We're happy to announce you can now visit us online at:

www.westerhoutdds.com.

You'll find information on our doctors and staff, our dental services,

patient education aids, financial and insurance information, as well as how to find and contact us. Please have a look and let us know how we can make our site even better for you, and your oral health needs.

DENTAL IMPLANTS

An option for replacing missing teeth

Are you self-conscious about missing teeth, or wearing dentures? If so, dental implants may be right for you.

What is an implant?

A dental implant is an artificial tooth root placed in your jaw to hold a replacement tooth, or bridge, in place. Dental implants are actually better at saving teeth than traditional bridge-work since implants do not rely on neighboring teeth for support. The success rate of dental implants is highly predictable, and they are considered an excellent option for tooth replacement.

Dental implants are appropriate for patients of all ages to replace a single tooth, several teeth or to support partial or full dentures. Dental implants help restore the ability to chew food, and can also help fill out a face that might otherwise look 'sunken' due to missing teeth. Unlike dentures, implants are not removed for overnight soaking and cleaning. No adhesives are needed.

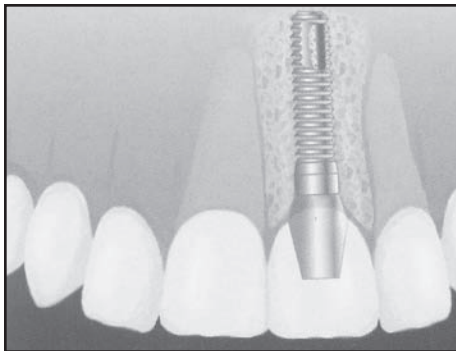
The implant process

Treatment is generally a 3-part process that takes several months.

In the first step, the dentist surgically places the implant in the jaw. The gum then is secured over the implant. The implant remains covered for about 3-6 months while it fuses with the bone, a process called "osseointegration."

In the second step, the implant is uncovered and the dentist attaches an extension, called a post, to the implant. The gum tissue is allowed to heal around the post. Once healed, the implant and post serve as the foundation for the new tooth.

In the third and final step, the dentist makes a crown, which has a size, shape, color and fit that blends with your other teeth. Once complete, the crown is attached to the implant post.



In this single tooth implant's final stage, a crown is permanently attached to the implant post.



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Are implants right for you?

If you're in good health and have healthy gums, you are a good candidate. Ask us more during your next visit about whether or not implants are an option for you.

More information on how implants work can be found on our website, in the **Patient Education** section.

CARE ENOUGH TO SHARE:

Our New Patient Referral Program

To thank those of you who think of us when referring family and friends for dental care, please ask for a "Care Enough to Share" certificate next time you're in the office.

Here's how it works: new patients you refer to our office will receive \$25 off their first office visit when

they present their Care Enough to Share Certificate. You, too, will receive a \$25 credit on your account as our way of saying "thank you".

For more information, please contact Dawn or Robin at 510.886.6416.

PRACTICE NEWS

Congratulations and best wishes to **Dawn**, one of our Front Office Business Administrators, who is returning to school to obtain her BS degree. Dawn will continue to work full-time in the office. Good luck, Dawn!

Dr. Dale's plane is almost complete, with a first flight scheduled for this summer. Watch for photos in our next newsletter!

Care Enough to Share



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