

IMPLANT RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY

The latest in implant restorative dentistry is the merging of several technologies that result in improved patient comfort, decreased treatment time, and increased predictability of the outcome. By combining CT Scan imaging of the facial structures along with CAD CAM technology and Implant technology, it is now possible for a patient to go to sleep with no teeth in the dental office and wake up with a full set of teeth in one visit.

This new technique called Guided Implant Placement with immediate loading, we are able to place implants using a minimal invasive procedure where it is not necessary to cut the gums to expose the bone to place the implants. This results in minimal post operative discomfort and healing for the patient. This technique is sometimes called “teeth in an hour” in articles.

Incorporating CAD CAM technology, we are able to prefabricate either a temporary or final prosthesis that can also be inserted during the initial implant placement procedure or shortly after which we refer to as immediate loading of the dental implants.

The concept involves using the latest computer software that lets us combine a CT Scan of a patient along with a CT Scan of the final prosthetic design we work up with the patient and then merging the two together to then use CAD CAM to pre make the surgical guide for the implant placement and also pre make a temporary or final prosthesis that duplicates our design. This is all done prior to the placement of the implants. We are then able to complete all of the surgical and prosthetic procedures in one visit. This technique is used frequently with patients who already wear a full denture.

In the past, the first surgical procedure involved cutting the gums and reflecting it away from the bone to determine where the ideal placement would be. The gums were then sewed back up over the implants and it was necessary to wait anywhere from four to twelve months until the bone adequately healed into the implant. It was then necessary to cut open the gums again to expose the implant. This was referred to as the second surgical phase of exposing the implant. After this, the restorative phase would begin which could take anywhere from two to twelve months depending on the complexity of the restorations being fabricated. We currently still use this procedure also in some circumstances.