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**Teeth Today!® --
New Technology Enables Dental Implants To
Immediately Replace Missing Teeth**

New York, NY January 29, 2003 - If you're missing a tooth or more, you may find that there are other things you miss. You may wish for your natural smile and the ability to chew food you desire. Maybe you feel self-conscious about your teeth and mouth, or discomfort as remaining teeth shift. And perhaps you've experienced muscle strains, an inability to speak clearly, headaches or unease in familiar situations at work, with friends or at home. The effect of tooth loss varies from person to person and depends on what exactly has been lost. If the crown has been lost then so has the visible part of the tooth. If the root is lost as well, you have lost the unseen part of the tooth. The root anchors the tooth in the jawbone, providing stable support for the crown. Without the root, the bone around the lost tooth may gradually recede, remaining teeth may shift and chewing may become more difficult with time. There are a number of ways to replace tooth crowns. But if you're interested in replacing your entire tooth - crown and root - your only option is dental implants.

Older style implants may require anywhere from five months to two years to replace the new tooth. Dr. Jeffrey Ganeles is a South Florida Periodontist with the Florida Institute for Periodontics & Dental Implants (FLIPDI) who along with his partner Dr. Mauricio Gutierrez enables his patients to have TeethToday!®. As Dr. Ganeles explains, "not only do patients have their teeth at once, they have more natural looking teeth and gums than one could ever have imagined. Placing the tooth immediately has many advantages over implant systems that only allow delayed tooth placement. For instance, delayed placement of a tooth allows the surrounding gums and tissues to shrink. Later, when a dentist tries to place a tooth, the gums may have receded so far as to create an unnatural looking gum line. Other advantages include: immediate full function of the new tooth, a natural cosmetic look, and very little discomfort. In fact some people have reported almost no pain at all." This procedure is less invasive than some older procedures for crown and bridge placement, where perfectly good neighboring teeth may have to be ground down to accommodate the crown. This innovative bio-mechanical design allows the implant to be locked in place, giving it stronger more permanent hold than any other implant.

Typically, dental implants are allowed to heal for 6 weeks to several months before they are used to support new teeth. The TeethToday!® method can often be used to replace a single tooth, several teeth, or a full mouth of teeth, upper or lower, with remarkable comfort, predictability and esthetics. Other procedures like extractions can also be accomplished at the same time as well. **As Dr. Gutierrez reports, "it is possible to walk into the office missing one tooth or a whole mouthful of teeth, and leave with a completely new set of full functional fixed provisional teeth."**

“While extraction, implant placement and restoration may seem like extensive treatment for a patient to go through in one day, patients respond very favorably with little discomfort, swelling or disruption in their daily schedules,” says Dr. Ganeles. He has performed this procedure on patients ranging in ages from their 20's to 90's with similar success. Patients who have undergone the procedure rarely take more than over-the-counter pain medication for a few days afterward. Also, they report a dramatic improvement in esthetics, chewing ability, security and overall dental comfort as compared to failing teeth or loose dentures.

Dr. Ganeles' paper in the International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants documented 99.5% success rates for the individual implants and 100% for the interim fixed bridges and subsequent permanent teeth. This study represents the largest group of patients with this treatment to be followed in the world, with the highest success rate!

Who is a candidate for dental implants?

“Anyone who is missing one or more of their teeth due to injury, disease, or decay may be a candidate for dental implants,” says Dr. Gutierrez. If one, a few or all teeth are missing, dental implants in conjunction with a crown or bridge can replace those teeth. Occasionally, older patients express concern that their age may prevent them from the benefits that dental implants offer. However, health is more of a determining factor than age. If you're healthy enough to have a tooth extracted, you're probably healthy enough to receive dental implants.

Is There a Chance of Rejection?

The body does not reject a dental implant as it might a soft tissue transplant, such as a lung, heart or kidney. This does not mean that an implant cannot fail, but it would be due to other factors, such as misalignment, improper force on the implant or other conditions or existing diseases of the patient. Dental implants are made of a material, titanium, that is totally bio compatible (compatible with body tissues) and actually integrates with the surrounding bone and becomes part of the body. Titanium is also being used more and more in the medical field to replace body parts.

More Information Can Be Found at www.Perio-implant.com

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