

Implant Dentistry as easy as...A...B...C...

Does choosing an implant dentist have you baffled? Do you look for someone older who has hands on experience or a dentist just out of school who may know the new technical advances? We know finding a dentist to trust is confusing. Many of our patients have seen other dentists before they come to us. Some of our patients may also go see other dentists after they have consulted with Dr. Jirik. The question remains how do you choose an implant dentist?

If you are missing one tooth or more, you may find there are other things you miss. You may miss your natural smile. And when was the last time you crunched into an apple or sank your teeth into a mouth-watering steak? Maybe you feel self-conscious about eating or speaking in public. Perhaps your remaining teeth are shifting or you suffer from muscle strain and headaches. Do you miss the comfort you once experienced in familiar situations at work, home or with friends?

How many of us experience a hopeless feeling when we think about living with dentures or partials for the rest of our lives? Many of us continue to live with the embarrassment of missing teeth, "hands over our mouths" when we eat or smile. Even the simple pleasure of old photographs sometimes ends abruptly as we find ourselves glaring at our "smile" of days past. The painful embarrassment of tooth loss, the mere act of placing our teeth in a container at night is a memory that can often follow us for the rest of our lives. Many of us have accepted the fact that we have missing teeth but living with the day to day difficulties of tooth loss can be challenging. Now there are a multitude of options that exist through Implant Dentistry.

The truth is — there is hope. Implant Dentistry is as unique as the individual! With new discoveries and techniques emerging almost on a

daily basis, Implant Dentistry continues to change the lives of individuals all over the country. Treatment for tooth loss is as individual, and unique as the person.

In dentistry, as in medicine, specialties exist that indicate a higher level of education, knowledge and expertise in a particular area of focus. Presently, however there is not an American Dental Association recognized specialty in Implant Dentistry. Knowing whom to ask about dental implants may be confusing. As with any specialized care, you should start with your own dentist, the one who knows you best. There are also several organizations that certify dentists such as the American Academy of Implant Dentistry (www.aaaid-implant.org) and the American Board of Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry (www.aboi.org). These organizations' credentialed membership requires proof of mastery of several implant systems by oral presentation, peer review of successful case histories and the completion of difficult written and oral examinations.

The right choice can be hard, so make a consultation appointment and sit down and talk. As part of our thorough evaluation, Dr. Jirik checks the condition of your mouth, the supporting bone in your jaws and the way your upper and lower teeth fit together. Many times he will gather additional information by taking dental x-rays or making models of your teeth. This information helps us determine whether you are a good candidate for dental implants. Always look for a dentist trained in the multi-modality approach to implants. This means he or she can use the implant best suited for you and not be limited to one particular type of implant due to training.

This leads us to types of implants. There are two types of implants: endosteal and subperiosteal. An

endosteal implant extends into the jawbone like a natural tooth root. A sufficient amount of bone is required to support this type of implant. The subperiosteal implant can be used if there is not enough bone present to support an endosteal implant. The subperiosteal is a metal frame that fits on the jawbone beneath the gums. This implant can be used to treat the most difficult cases in as little as three visits with just one surgery. Artificial teeth are attached to the posts on both implants to complete your smile.

Here are questions we recommend asking at the consultation appointment:

How many implants have you placed?

Look for a dentist that places implants on a regular (weekly) basis.

Do you do endosteal and subperiosteal implants?

Make sure the dentist doesn't use implants as one size fits all.

What kind of training have you had?

How long were your courses?

Look for a dentist that has completed many different training sessions over the course of time.

Will I have to see more than one dentist to have my case completed?

Many times one dentist will place the implants and the patient will be sent to another dentist for the final restorations. There are, however, dentists like Dr. Jirik that can place and restore the dental implants in the same comfortable environment.

Will the cost be all inclusive?

Many times when there is more than one dentist involved in your treatment it is difficult to get a total cost. Dentists that place and restore dental implants in one location should be able to give you an all inclusive price.

How long will this take?

Depending on a patient's needs, procedures performed and healing time; treatment time can range from 3 months to one year.

Will I have teeth throughout the process?

Ask your dentist before you start treatment. Most times you should not be without teeth.

Do I have enough bone for the implants the dentist recommended?

Many times the amount of bone available is inadequate. The dentist should be able to augment your bone to stimulate new bone growth that may be needed for implant placement.

Will I be able to choose what my final teeth look like?

Some dental laboratories customize gum shades, tooth shapes and colors. Ask your dentist.

Can I call other implant patients for references?

The dentist should always have patients available that can talk with you about their experience.

If you think you are a candidate for dental implants you owe it to yourself to choose the right dentist. A dentist like Dr. Jirik, who is experienced in dental implant procedures, can utilize the multi modality approach. This allows us to select from a variety of implants and systems to best suit our patient's needs and desires. Today's technology has the ability to improve all aspects of your life. Dental implantology allows for the replacement of one or all of your teeth by crowns, bridges or removable overdentures. Implant Dentistry not only restores function, increasing your overall ability to eat and speak, but can dramatically improve physical and emotional well being.

Our goal at Dr. Jirik's is to create an individualized treatment plan designed specifically for you, while offering the optimal solution to your specific dental needs and concerns. Why not call us today to explore your options and let us make choosing an implant dentist as easy as ABC?



Samuel F. Jirik, D.D.S.

Dr. Samuel F. Jirik is an Arkansas native and long time Cabot resident. He and his wife, Kim, have two children, William, 8, and Annalise, 5. Dr. Jirik has been practicing dentistry since 1986 and has placed and restored more than 2,000 dental

implants since 1989.

Dr. Jirik received a bachelor of science degree in Health science from the University of Arkansas in Little Rock. His dental degree was obtained from the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences in 1986.

He holds positions such as:

- Diplomate, American Board of Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry
- Fellow, American Academy of Implant Dentistry
- President, American Academy of Implant Dentistry, Southern District
- Fellow, American Academy of General Dentistry
- Past President, Society for the Preservation of Oral Health
- American Dental Association
- Arkansas State Dental Association

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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