

DENTAL IMPLANTS

No More Denture Cream

"No more denture cream," exclaims 66 year old Vertie Harris. "I never dreamed that I would be able to eat a hamburger with all the toppings, a steak, or apples and plums again. Everything looks so good and tastes even better. My teeth work so well I've had to join the gym." Vertie reminisces, "I didn't get off to a very good start in life with my dental care. My teeth began to decay at thirteen and by the time I was twenty my few remaining teeth were extracted and I started wearing dentures. I was without teeth for six months while my gums healed. I suppose I was so happy to be pain free that I didn't let it bother me. As years went by it became more difficult to eat and chew with my dentures. I spent countless hours applying denture adhesives, which made it impossible to eat at restaurants because I would have to reapply the adhesive in the middle of a meal. I decided there must be a better way so I made consult appointments with several doctors. Dr. Jirik spent a lot of time with me at my first appointment explaining my options and discussing the differences between mini-implants and root form implants. I could tell that his treatment was specific to my needs and desires. He also had the experience behind him to tackle even the most sophisticated dental needs." Vertie was typical of many of our patients with dentures. The main complaint is movement while speaking or eating. Some have sharp pain associated with the rocking movement. Most complain of an increasingly poor fit. Denture wearers, like Vertie, can experience progressive bone loss that makes conventional dentures ever more difficult to wear. Denture wearers often suffer from poor function and inadequate facial support. This adds years to their appearance and robs them of many of the basic joys people with good dental health and function take for granted.

Quality of life is dramatically improved for patients replacing their conventional dentures with an overdenture. The average person with

teeth can have a bite force of 400 pounds per square inch. In contrast a denture wearer has only 25 pounds per square inch of bite pressure. This means eating a steak, an apple or pizza is difficult if not impossible for denture wearers. There is an option called an overdenture, which is simply a denture designed to seat over implants. The overdenture offers an improved biting surface and dimension, better function, and looks better than conventional dentures. It can be placed in the upper arch, lower arch or both. Overdentures can be supported by Root form dental implants allowing the biting force to be increased four fold. This means a patient can resume the normal diet they had all but forgotten. Best of all at no time during the procedure are you without teeth.

Our philosophy requires a minimum number of implants to facilitate denture retention and support. We recommend to many of our patients traditional root form implants with a bar supported overdenture, which dramatically increases the retention of the denture and provides a time proven longevity. Occasionally we integrate mini-implants in our treatment to support temporary dentures and bridges during reconstruction. However, this option is not as dependable, think driving your car with bicycle tires instead of regular tires.

Implant dentistry not only restores the ability to eat and speak but can dramatically improve physical and emotional well being. Our goal is to create an individualized treatment plan designed specifically for you, while offering the optimal solution to your specific dental needs and concerns. We do what's best for you. The icing on the cake for denture wearers is the improved cosmetics of the new "lifelike" dentures. Years can be shaved off the appearance from proper facial support mimicking the results of a face lift to the lower face. Denture wearers can now have that Hollywood smile.

Vertie and her husband, Albert,

couldn't be happier. "I wasn't crazy about Vertie's decision at first," says Albert, "but now I am convinced that is was the right choice for her." "Her new smile makes her look ten years

younger but most importantly it makes her feel more confident. The investment of money and time was nothing compared to the end result, a beautiful and practical smile!"



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, 12, and Annalise, 8. Dr. Jirik has been practicing dentistry since 1986 and has placed and restored more than 3,000 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.

Dr. Jirik recently spoke after former Arkansas Razorback Football Coach, Lou Holtz, at a dental conference in Kansas City.

He holds positions such as:

- Diplomate, American Board of Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry
- Fellow, American Academy of Implant Dentistry
- American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry
- Past 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

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