

Brevard Health Care News

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IMPLANT, COSMETIC, AND GENERAL DENTISTRY

Bridge the Gap. Patients say that implant-supported bridges are like having your own teeth back, and thanks to today's amazing dental technology, it's never too late to recapture a healthy mouth and sparkling smile.

Sarah Brooks says she was having problems with her mouth. "My teeth were falling out," she confides, "and I just didn't want to wear dentures; I wanted something more permanent, so I began researching dentists in the extended area. I looked up who they were, what they had done, where they had studied, and what their credentials looked like. Additionally, I asked a lot of friends for recommendations, and they all pointed me to Dr. Brown."

CLARK F. BROWN, JR., DDS, P.A.

Clark F. Brown, Jr., DDS, is a comprehensively trained and experienced dentist who has practiced implant, cosmetic, and general dentistry in Melbourne for more than twenty-eight years. It was approximately three years ago when Sarah scheduled her first consultation with Dr. Brown.

The Consultation

"During my first consultation with a new patient, I carefully review the medical history," describes Dr. Brown. "Then we go over the types of problems the patient may be having and the goals she or he wants to achieve."

"Of course we take x-rays, which enables me to see the condition of the teeth and how much bone a patient has, and then we sit down together and

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PHOTO BY DENNIS BRANDS

A Message from Dr. Brown:

First impressions are strong and lasting, and most people interpret your smile as a reflection of your personality. A pleasing smile makes a very positive first impression on people, where a poor smile is often greeted with reservation and caution. Only if a relationship develops do we really get to know the person behind the smile.

A 2004 scientific survey conducted at the Medical College of Wisconsin found that 99.7% of the respondents believe a

smile is an important social asset. The same survey found that 96% of adults believe an attractive smile makes a person more appealing to the opposite sex, and 74% felt that an unattractive smile could hurt a person's chances for career success. It was determined that the characteristics people are most likely to notice first about someone's smile include straightness, whiteness and color of teeth, any missing

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Sarah says she considers her implant-supported bridges to be her own permanent teeth.

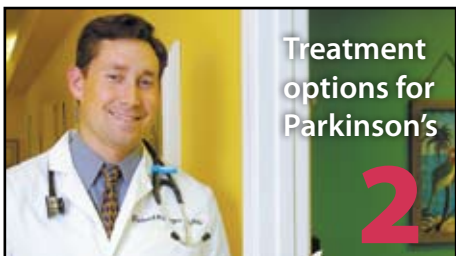
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NEUROLOGY



Treatment options for Parkinson's

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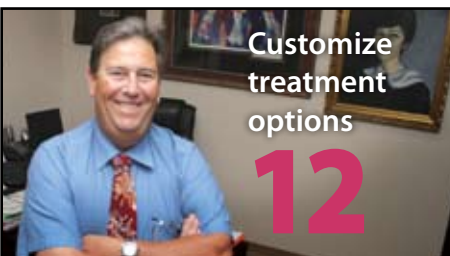
PLASTIC SURGERY



Eliminate unwanted flab

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PAIN MANAGEMENT



Customize treatment options

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"I love my new teeth, and unless I tell someone, no one knows that they're implants."

Sarah Brooks

The Gap

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discuss how we can reach his or her goals. We discuss all options available to achieve the desired results, and the cost and time involved."

Dr. Brown spends enough time with his patients so that they can make educated decisions.

"When Sarah first came to us, she was unhappy with the appearance of her smile and was looking for a full mouth restoration," recounts Dr. Brown. "She was suffering from severe bone loss around her existing teeth and didn't have enough stability to build bridges on her teeth.

"That meant that Sarah was left with two reliable options. One was a denture that would have required removal for cleaning. The other was an implant-supported bridge, which is more comfortable and stable than something that is removable. The use of implants was as close as we could come to replacing her own teeth."

Implants look, chew, and feel like natural teeth as well as stimulate the bone, causing it to strengthen and grow.

"The implant-supported fixed bridge has several advantages over a denture," informs Dr. Brown. "Whereas a denture feels like there is something foreign in your mouth, the fixed

bridge feels like your own natural teeth.

"Second, even a well-fitting denture can still move because it is sitting on the gum tissue, which is soft and moves a little bit. Implant-supported teeth are not going to move at all.

"Third, taste buds are found not only on the tongue but also on the roof of the mouth. Because a denture covers those nerve endings on the roof of the mouth, it affects not only the sense of taste but also of food temperature and texture, which plays into your whole eating experience."

Dr. Brown designed a treatment plan for Sarah, and she decided to have full fixed bridges. The bridges would be secured by six implants in the maxilla, or upper jaw, and six implants in the mandible, or lower jaw.

IV Conscious Sedation

Dr. Brown also offered Sarah the option of having IV conscious sedation during the placement of her implants. This level of sedation is often referred to as *twilight sleep*. It allows the patient to be relaxed and comfortable throughout treatment and usually results in no memories of the dental procedures. Sarah chose to have the sedation. "I was very comfortable



Clark F. Brown, Jr., DDS, is board certified by the American Board of Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of California, San Diego, and his doctor of dental surgery degree from Georgetown University. Dr. Brown served as a dentist in the U.S. Air Force from 1978 to 1981. He has been in private practice in Melbourne since 1981. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry, International Congress of Oral Implantologists, American Society of Osseointegration, and American College of Forensic Examiners and is a fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry and International Congress of Oral Implantologists.

being able to sleep throughout the procedure," she remembers. "I was confident Dr. Brown and his staff would take very good care of me."

Dental Implants

A dental implant is an artificial replacement for the root of a tooth. The implant provides a foundation on which permanent teeth or removable teeth can be securely attached.

"The first stage is to place the implants," educates Dr. Brown. "These implants are made of titanium, which is an extremely biocompatible material. It is a strong substance that has the ability to actually bond to the bone."

This process is called *osseointegration*.

"At times, we can place an implant and immediately place a tooth over it. The success rate of that procedure, however, is less than if we let the implant heal first, especially if the tooth is in the back, where it will be subjected to a lot of pressure," informs the doctor.

During the placement of implants, the tissue over the implant site is opened to expose the bone. A recipient space is created in the bone to the exact shape of the implant, and the implant is then placed into the bone. The tissue is repositioned and secured with sutures.

Once the implant and bone have fused, which takes approximately four months, the top of the implant is uncovered, and replacement teeth are attached to the implants.

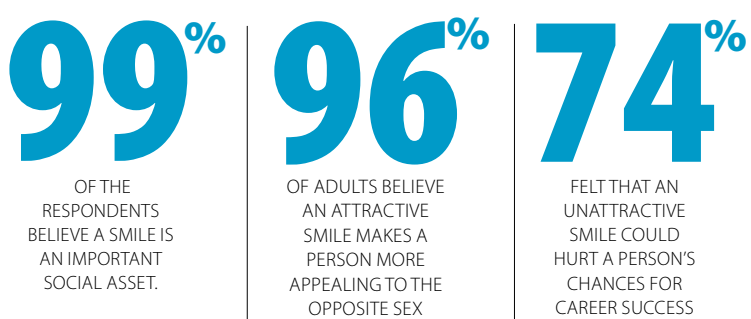
Implant-Supported Fixed Bridges

Dr. Brown determines the number, position, and direction in which to lay the foundation of dental implants to maximize success. He also works carefully with each patient to achieve the desired design and aesthetics of the replacement teeth. Because Dr. Brown performs both the surgical placement of implants and the design of the restorations, the possibility of miscommunication between the implant surgeon and the restorative dentist is eliminated. He knows exactly how the placement of each implant was performed and how to best utilize the implant for the final crown or bridge.

"There are many shapes, styles, and colors of teeth that patients can choose from," acknowledges Dr. Brown. "It is interesting, though, that teeth usually conform to the shape of the person's face, whether it is round, oval, or square."

"Although the denture I wore [during healing] was very good and certainly looked natural, there is no comparison between a denture and an implant-supported bridge," emphasizes Sarah.

"I love my new teeth, and unless I tell someone, no one knows that they're implants. I don't even think of them as implants; they're my teeth and they are permanent. I treat them just like my own teeth; I brush, floss, and gargle. I'm so grateful they have the technology to do this." **FHCN**—Kris Kline



Message

(continued from page 1)

teeth, the sparkle of the smile, and sincerity of the smile.

In my office, I use the most advanced techniques and materials available to create an attractive, positive smile. I look at the patient, listen to what they want to achieve, and together we plan the end result. This is the most important and most difficult aspect of treatment. Several people, both in the forefront and behind the scenes, are often

involved in creating the desired appearance. In the forefront are the dental hygienists, dental assistants, treatment coordinator, and me, who all work directly with the patient. Behind the scenes are the laboratory technicians who create custom restorations to perfectly suit the needs of each patient.

We all work together, ensuring a winning smile for the patient. **FHCN**

For more information, please visit www.drimplant.com.

Here for you

Dr. Brown looks forward to meeting the readers of *Brevard Health Care News*. For additional information or to schedule an appointment, please call **(321) 259-9429**. The office is located at **2113 Sarno Rd.** in Melbourne.

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