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IMPLANT, COSMETIC, AND GENERAL DENTISTRY

Better Living Through Dentistry

Miscommunication among specialists and inconvenience can be unnerving for patients who are shuttling from one health care provider to another. Fortunately, there is a better option.

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

Dental patients do not actually crave fillings or tooth implants; instead they want pretty smiles and to be able to chew better. They hope to look and feel good and to know that whatever they have done, it will last. Patients want customized dental care based on their individual measurements and personal information, including age, gender, personality, and skin tone. And they want someone they can rely on to provide these services in a competent, compassionate, comprehensive manner.

Nadine Cline was one such patient. "About a decade ago, I had a lot of dental work done," recounts the retired first-grade teacher. "I had several bridges placed, which was very expensive, but unfortunately the results were unsatisfactory. Some of the teeth supporting the bridge began to loosen and abscess.

"So I had to decide whether to have removable partial dentures or implants."

Nadine says she spent a significant amount of time researching dentists in the Melbourne area who placed dental implants, and every time she explored further, one name came to the top of her list: Clark F. Brown, Jr., DDS. Dr. Brown is a comprehensively trained and experienced dentist who has practiced cosmetic, general, and implant dentistry in Melbourne for over 30 years.

"I went ahead and scheduled an appointment with him," remembers Nadine, "and from the first time I entered the waiting room, I felt comfortable. Staff members greeted me warmly, and everything was very calm and seemed to flow smoothly.

"Then when I met Dr. Brown, I couldn't believe how nice he was. He



Nadine, a retired first-grade teacher, recognizes the importance of seeing a dentist with multiple specialized skills.

and his entire staff were both personable and professional."

Personal and professional

"During my first consultation with a new patient, I take a medical history," describes Dr. Brown. "Then we go over the types of problems the patient may be having and the goals he or she wants to achieve. A patient with dentures may want to get rid of them altogether or may simply want the dentures comfortably secured. A patient with missing teeth may want a fixed bridge or may prefer implants.

"Of course, we take x-rays, which enables me to see how much bone a patient has, and then we sit down together and discuss how we can reach his or her goals. We discuss what we can achieve, with various options, and the cost and

time involved.

"We spend enough time with our patients so that they can make educated decisions."

"By the time I left that first consultation, I had been given a thorough explanation of my options, an estimate of the expenses involved, and a timetable for the procedures," remembers Nadine appreciatively.

According to Dr. Brown, Nadine was missing a number of teeth in the back on both sides and on the upper right side.

He explains that she had three options. "Her first option was to do nothing, which would have resulted in a greatly diminished chewing ability and consequential pressure on her front teeth, which were never meant to do heavy chewing.

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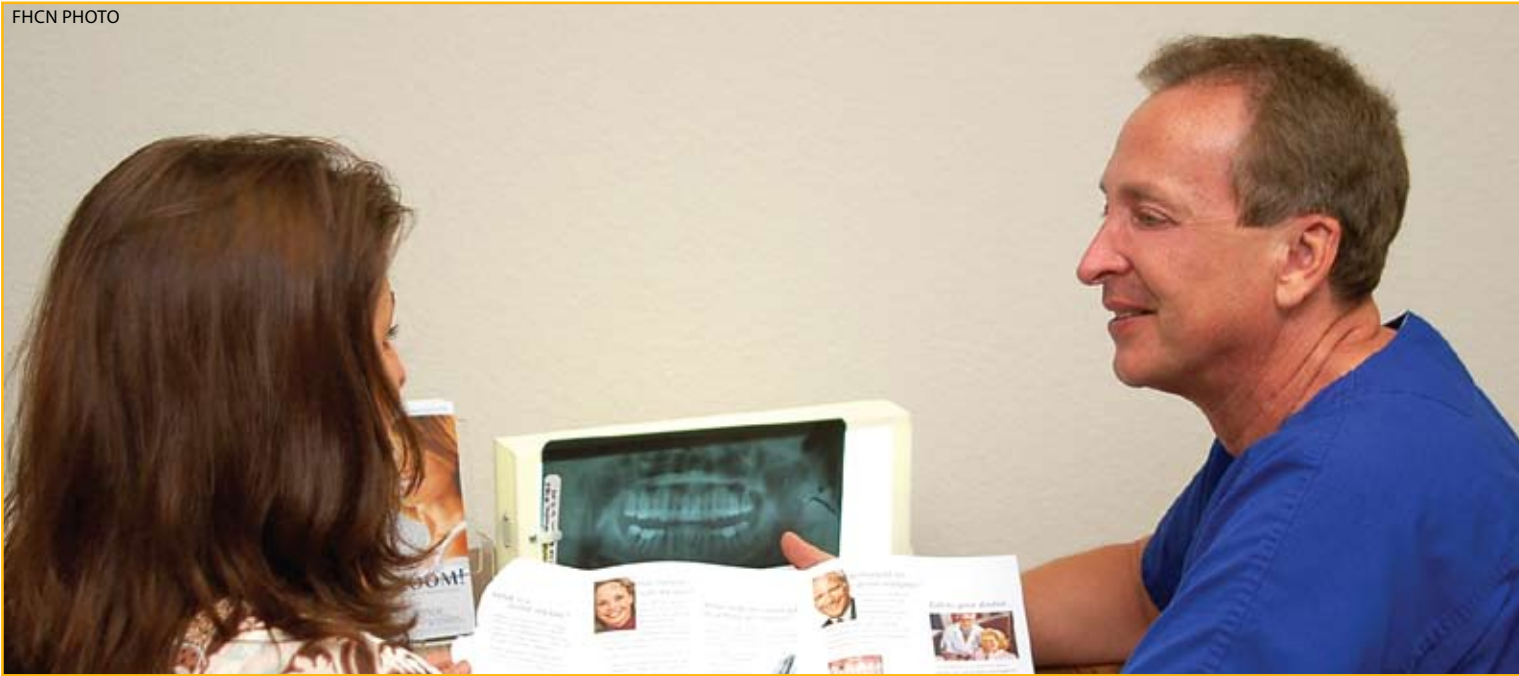
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Dr. Brown examines his patients, listens to what they want to achieve, and together they plan the end result.

Dentist

(continued from page 1)

“Her second option was removable partial dentures. They would have required removal for cleaning, and with the number of teeth that were missing, it would have been difficult for a partial denture to stay in place.

“Nadine’s third option was for us to place implants, which is as close as we could come to replacing her own teeth. Implants look, chew, and feel like natural teeth.”

Implants also stimulate the bone, causing it to strengthen and grow. Following her consultation, Nadine decided to have implants.

“This time, I wanted something permanent. I’m retired, and I didn’t want to think about being ninety-five years old and dealing with dentures.”

Permanent 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. Implants can prevent deterioration of the bone beneath the gums, which helps maintain the fullness of the face and provides a good bite. They are a great option for patients who want to improve their dental health.

“The first stage is to place the

implants,” educates Dr. Brown. During the placement of implants, a recipient space is created in the bone to the exact shape of the implant, and the implant is then placed into the bone.

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

Dr. Brown determines the number, position, and direction in which to lay the foundation with 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 the implant is done for each patient and why.

“My new permanent teeth are great,” observes Nadine. “I just wish I’d had it done years ago.

“I suggested to my daughter that she change dentists now so that if she ever needs to have implants done, she’ll *already* have just the doctor who can do it!”

FHCN—Kris Kline

CEREC 3D Dentistry

Traditionally, those in need of a crown could expect to visit the dentist twice: once to have impressions made and a temporary crown created and again to have the newly fabricated permanent crown placed.

“CEREC 3D’s CAD/CAM dentistry eliminates many of the steps involved in making crowns,” informs Dr. Brown, “limiting the time needed to a single appointment for the patient.

“One of the best features of the CEREC is that it is a very conservative restoration,” observes Dr. Brown. “Using the older method for crowns, I would have to grind away all of my patients’ healthy tooth structures. However, with CEREC, I am able to save a good portion of each tooth, and using high-tech adhesive dentistry, I can bond the all-porcelain crowns onto them.”

The process of creating a tooth-conserving crown is relatively simple.

“After removing any portion of the tooth that isn’t healthy, I paint a reflective powder directly onto the tooth’s surface,” educates Dr. Brown. “Using a special camera, I make an image of the tooth. This optical impression is then used by the computer to design the necessary crown.”

With the CEREC 3D, Dr. Brown can see every integral part of the tooth in three dimensions. “I can shape and form every fraction of each crown and restoration with this 3D software. Once I have it designed the way I want it, the crown is milled from a block of porcelain. It is then finished, stained and glazed, and cemented onto the tooth.

“The entire process takes approximately one and a half hours.”

In addition to fashioning full-porcelain crowns, CEREC has the ability to design and contour all types of porcelain restorations, including onlays, inlays, and veneers. An *onlay* replaces part of a tooth, including one or more points or cusps of the tooth. An *inlay* is a custom-made filling, and a *veneer* is a thin layer of porcelain that fits over the front of the tooth.

Dr. Brown points out that the material used to create CEREC crowns is the closest thing in dentistry to human enamel. The natural-looking, affordable material is anti-abrasive and plaque resistant, making the crowns reliable and long-lasting.

“There are no metals involved,” assures Dr. Brown. “The material is the most biocompatible available. And because the procedure is completed in only one visit, there is less trauma to the tooth, less chance of the nerve being affected, and less opportunity for infection.”



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.

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.

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

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