

A Reason to Smile

Today's technology enables patients to have amazingly comfortable, impeccably fitted, aesthetically beautiful, permanently fixed restorations that look and feel like their own natural teeth — often in one visit.

Analita Russell needed dental work.

"I had a bridge that had partially broken off," confides Analita. "My general dentist recommended that I have an implant, so I went to see Dr. Brown."

Clark F. Brown, Jr., DDS, is a com-

options, and the cost and time involved.

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

Analita explains that she had a fixed bridge in the lower back that involved one missing tooth and the teeth on either side of it.

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 is less than if we let the implant heal first, especially if the tooth is in the back where

good, so we were able to crown it," says Dr. Brown. "For that we used CEREC 3-D dentistry."

CEREC 3-D 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. The time between visits — usually two to three weeks — allowed dental impressions to be sent to a qualified lab where they would be used to make the permanent crown.

"CEREC 3-D'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."

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."

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

"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.

"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."

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."

"Dr. Brown is a good dentist, and he's very gentle," observes Analita. "He knew what he was doing." **FHCN**—Kris Kline

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.

FHCN PHOTO BY NERISSA JOHNSON



prehensively trained and experienced dentist who has practiced implant, cosmetic, and general dentistry in Melbourne for more than 28 years.

"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."

"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, other

"Dr. Brown told me that my very back tooth was infected so it needed to come out," remembers Analita.

"That meant that Analita would no longer have an anchor tooth for her bridge," describes Dr. Brown, "which left her with two reliable options. One was a removable partial denture that would have required removal for cleaning. The other was an implant, which is more comfortable and stable than something that is removable. An implant is as close as we could come to replacing her own teeth."

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

Following her consultation, Analita decided to have an implant.

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.

"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

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.

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.

"Analita's front anchor tooth was still

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.

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