

SMILES

PHILLIPS & PHILLIPS DENTAL ASSOCIATES

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Staff News

- Our office has donated toothbrushes to an organization who is helping the homeless.
- Our entire staff will be attending the Hinman Dental meeting here in Atlanta in March. Dr. George is a volunteer at the meeting this year.
- Dr. Greg & Dr. George will be attending the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry meeting in New Orleans this May.
- Stacey, our part-time hygienist-will be having a baby boy in April which will be joining the two girls she now has.

CHANGE IN E-MAIL ADDRESS

Our office e-mail address has changed! Our new address is phillipsdental@gmail.com.

Please change the address book in your email program.

Staff Members

George Phillips, D.M.D.
T. Gregory Phillips, D.D.S.
Yutonya *Dental Assistant*
Amy *Registered Dental Hygienist*
Cynthia *Dental Assistant*
Kim *Registered Dental Hygienist*
Cindy *Appointment/Financial*
Shannon *Appointment/Financial*
Stacey *Registered Dental Hygienist*

Are You at Increased Risk for Tooth Loss?

Tooth loss is an inherent risk for anyone who fails to take proper care of their teeth. Preventive care-which includes frequent dental cleanings and exams, brushing teeth at least twice a day, and flossing daily-is vital to optimum oral health and can help you keep your natural teeth for a lifetime. But some people are naturally more at risk for losing teeth than others. Do you fall into any of these categories?

Post-menopausal women: Recent research suggests that low estrogen levels, common in women after menopause, can put them at risk for developing severe gum disease, according to Dr. Barbara J. Steinberg, spokesperson on women's oral health issues for the American Dental Association.

People with osteoporosis: Decreased bone density in the jaw means that teeth may no longer have as solid a foundation as they need. As a result, they may become loose. Women are most at risk for developing osteoporosis. Other risk factors include smoking, heavy daily alcohol consumption, a life-long low intake of calcium, family history of osteoporosis, advanced age, a slender build, and a sedentary lifestyle.

Those genetically pre-disposed to periodontal (gum) disease: Some people are more prone to developing periodontal disease, which slowly and painlessly causes the gums to pull away from the teeth. Left untreated, periodontal disease can also cause the supporting bone tissue to dissolve, permanently loosening teeth.

Smokeless tobacco users: A recent study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed that those who use smokeless tobacco are more than four times more likely to develop tooth decay than non-users; untreated tooth decay can lead to tooth loss.

If you fall into any of these high-risk groups, it's vital to your oral health that you are meticulous about your daily oral hygiene habits and that you see us regularly for exams.

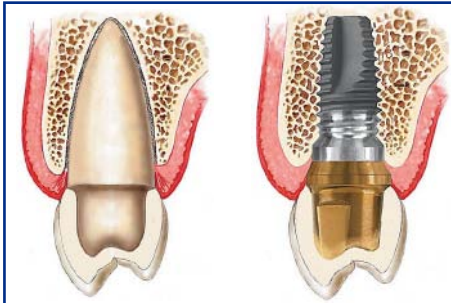
Free Antibiotic Program

Some of the more common generic prescription antibiotics are now either free or are a very low \$4 per prescription. Publix, Kroger and other stores have such programs now.

A Single-Tooth Implant: The Procedure

Today we can replace a single missing tooth with a dental implant and crown. This replaces the need for a "bridge" or a partial denture. Restoring the mouth with a dental implant is accomplished in two phases. The first phase is the surgical placement of the implant. It is left under the gums for several months so the bone can attach to it. After the bone is firm, the second phase begins; the implant is re-exposed, and the new crown is made.

An small incision is made in the gum and the implant, which is as long as the width of a dime, is placed in the bone. After the implant is snugly in place, the gum is closed over the implant with a stitch or two. Over the course of the next few months, the implant attaches securely to the bone.



The second phase starts with surgical exposure of the implant. A small extension is placed to raise it above the gum line. Your dentist will then begin a series of appointments to create your new crown.

Though some of the steps might be different in your case, they usually include making impressions of your mouth. From these impressions, your dentist will make precise working models of your mouth, which are carefully mounted for proper alignment. The last step is the placement of the new crown.

The success of the implant depends on the care you provide at home, and the support you receive through regular checkups and cleanings.

Crowded Teeth

Crowded and misaligned teeth are very common. You have several treatment choices if you'd like to have straight and even teeth. These choices include:

Re-contouring: Re-contouring is used in cases of mildly crooked teeth and involves reshaping and contouring your teeth with the dental handpiece.

Invisalign or Braces: Orthodontics is often the ideal way to straighten teeth, especially in severe crowding cases. However, you must be willing to wear trays for about a year or more for Invisalign, 3-5 years for traditional braces. Invisalign and traditional braces are now a very common procedure for adults; in fact, 40 percent of orthodontic treatments are for adults. Invisalign trays are clear and practically invisible and braces are now available with small, clear brackets that are bonded directly to the front of the teeth. These eliminate that "metal mouth" look commonly associated with having braces.

Bonding: Bonding is a procedure for applying a plastic resin material to existing tooth structure. The term bonding generally refers to a single-appointment procedure where resin is applied to front teeth to change their cosmetic appearance. Bonding is an effective aesthetic technique, and may require some maintenance from time to time.

Crowns: Crowns (also called caps) cover the entire portion of the tooth above the gum line and are most appropriate when teeth have been significantly damaged or altered, as they are with fillings, broken teeth, or large cavities.

Veneers: Veneers are thin shells of porcelain that are most commonly bonded to the fronts and tops of the teeth. Applying veneers is one of the most effective and common methods for creating cosmetic changes.

Our office is committed to meeting or exceeding the standards of infection control mandated by OSHA, the CDC and the ADA. We have voluntary testing for HIV, TB, and Hepatitis regularly. All instruments and handpieces are steam heat sterilized (autoclaved). Disposables are used whenever possible.



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