



# SmarTeeth

*Helping You Make Better Dental Choices*

End of the year 2005

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## **Our Practice Philosophy**

We are here to help you make good dental decisions. We endeavor to do this by getting to know you and what your desires are for your dental health. We are ready to share, with you, all the information available about your dental care and to provide you with the highest quality care for your dental needs

## **Exciting Happenings in Implants**

We seem to be talking to more and more patients about implants these days. An implant is a great way to replace a tooth that is missing. Traditionally, a missing tooth is replaced with a fixed bridge that involves teeth on either side of the empty space or a removable partial denture that clips on to other teeth and comes out at night. An implant only involves the area where the tooth is missing and stays put.

The process begins by coming in to talk with Dr. McCrea about your treatment options. **We offer free implant consultations for interested patients.** If implants seem a good way to go, a second consultation with a Periodontist(Gum Specialist) is next. Our two favorite Periodontists are Dr. Dyer and Dr. Watson. Dr. McCrea's mother-in-law is having Dr. Dyer place implants for her next month. They will make the final determination whether or not you are a good candidate for implants.

You then have what has become a fairly routine surgical procedure to place the implants. It used to be a six month wait for healing. For most patients now it is just a three month wait. Even though "Instant Implants" are used in the makeover shows, they haven't been around long enough for us to be comfortable with them. After healing is complete, the periodontist prepares the implant for the patient to come back to us, and in about two weeks you have an implant crown ready to put into use.

Good oral hygiene is very important around implants, just as it is important for all of your teeth. Coming in for check-ups and maintenance is imperative. Marlenne has had special training and special instruments to clean and maintain implants.

If you think implants might be a good idea for you, just give us a call and make an appointment to discuss it with Dr. McCrea.

## **Our Answering Service**

We have a great answering service. We have been using the same service for seven years now and they know us very well. They are especially good at getting in touch with Dr. McCrea and/or Beth in an emergency. If you need to leave a message that is not an emergency, they can take that for you too. Many times, when you have a question about your treatment or your next appointment, you are at home in the evening. If you are like most of us, you forget about your question the next day. If you call the office phone number and **leave a message** with the answering service, it is taken care of and we will get back to you the next day we are in the office.



## **Save-a-Tooth Kits**

About 5 million teeth get knocked out every year in the United States. For many, the teeth are gone for good. A Save-a-Tooth kit could help prevent that. Save-a-Tooth is a solution formulated to keep teeth viable to re-implant in the bone and gums for up to two hours or more if you are lucky. Without it, even in milk or water, a tooth has to be re-implanted within 30 minutes.



Dr. McCrea was able to successfully re-implant a front tooth on a young man who knocked it out only because a quick thinking nurse

put the tooth in milk and his mother got him to the office within an hour. He was fortunate.

Many YMCAs, pro sports teams, and even Olympic venues keep Save-a-Tooth on hand. The solution keeps for two years and costs less than \$20.00 per kit. If you or your children play sports, ride bikes, or jump on the bed, a Save-a-Tooth kit is a good idea. You can buy them on line at

**save-a-tooth.com** or call them At **888-788-6684**.

### **End of the Year Insurance Crunch**

The end of the year will be here before you know it. Do you know what benefits you have left? Those of you whose benefits that renew at the end of the year should be sure that they have been in for their two check-up and cleaning appointments. Patients who need treatment or have started treatment want to be sure to maximize this year's benefits, especially ones who have already met their deductibles. Just give us a call, and we can help you figure out where you are and what you need to do to make the most of your insurance benefits.

### **Care Credit**

We are still offering Care Credit as a great way to finance your dental needs. Care Credit can help you spread payments out over a period of time without interest. Many of our patients have found this to be very helpful. Ask Sue for details. apply online at [www.carecredit.com](http://www.carecredit.com).

