

# TOOTHFULLY. *speaking*



Dr. Preeti Desai

**Dental  
Implants  
are forever  
... Right?  
... NOT!**

There is no doubt that dental implants have been a game changer for dentistry and the MAIN beneficiary are people suffering from lost teeth. If you can't chew a SALAD in a restaurant or eat a STEAK due to lack of teeth, how can you keep up good nutrition and a balanced diet? There is NO better way to replace missing teeth for someone who has experienced poor chewing function because of past tooth extractions. Today, implants are more cost effective than the past and costs have come down; much like the costs of TV's or cell phones.

But "too much of a good thing" is starting to show itself! Lecturing nationally and internationally - I communicate with colleagues on the growing epidemic of implant failures related gum disease already coming down the pipe. Implants are NOT forever or a permanent fix for patients. Implants are at higher risk for gum disease than teeth and before you get one or more dental implants, the risk of why you lost your tooth/teeth must be addressed.

If you lost teeth because of gum disease, you will certainly have a 20% higher risk of losing your implant in the next 3-5 years. The main problem is that gum disease actually has no acute pain like a cavity or tooth pain. The gum and bone that keep teeth in our head don't experience the same pain as teeth and so by the time you realize you have gum disease, treatment to get that bone and gum back is difficult and has more repercussions. You cannot fix and resolve gum disease like a broken cavity filled tooth and eliminate the disease. Periodontists can only MANAGE gum disease and help people control their gum disease. So when your dentist or hygienist says "I am referring you to the periodontist" to get your pockets under control - it actually means that regular dental cleanings are not enough to "control" your disease. If this gum disease is not under control when a dental implant is placed... all studies say you have a 50:50 chance of eventually losing your dental implant!

So make sure you know what you are getting into .... even though others may not!

Laser Implant Periodontal

SPECIALIST

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