

WELLESLEY PEOPLE

Dentist presents implant dentistry concept to colleagues

Dr. Paul Schnitman of Wellesley was invited to present his concept of minimally invasive implant dentistry at the 22nd Annual Meeting of the Academy of Osseointegration, the foremost dental implant organization of dental specialists.

Schnitman was first to publish results on the technique of placing fixed teeth on to dental implants at the time of implant placement, which has formed the basis of an exciting new advance in implant dentistry now referenced worldwide.

At the Academy meeting, Schnitman was able to demonstrate an innovative method for combining his tooth replacement design with advances in minimally invasive dental implant placement.

With this technology Schnitman is able to position the dental implant virtually on his computer by simply using a CT scan of the patient. From this information a guide is formed, which when placed into the patient's mouth, guides the implant to place right through the patient's gum with high precision, without requiring a scalpel to expose and visualize the bone. The tooth can even be placed immediately on the implant.

While the typical dental implant approach for someone losing teeth may require two to four or more surgeries and use of



Dr. Paul Schnitman

a removable bridge or denture for a half year or more, this procedure can be done in an hour or less, often without bone grafts.

Schnitman is particularly enthusiastic about what this means for those people delaying treatment because they cannot face a surgical procedure or long drawn out treatment time. He said, "It is very exciting that we can now place dental implants with little or no discomfort or swelling and without even the need for sutures. This is progress!"

Schnitman is a part-time member of the faculty of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and he maintains a practice of dentistry where he specializes in the reconstruction of missing, periodontally involved, hopeless and severely decayed teeth. The prac-

tice offers such traditional solutions as crowns, bridges and dentures, but focuses on dental implants, a procedure that enables patients once again to enjoy non-removable teeth.