

DOCTOR *of* DENTISTRY

A BUSINESS AND LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE FOR DENTISTS



Robert A. Levine, D.D.S.
PA Center for Dental
Implants & Periodontics

Musician, Civil War Buff, Periodontist Extraordinaire



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MONTI

Robert A. Levine, D.D.S., founder and director of the Pennsylvania Center for Dental Implants & Periodontics (right), and his associate, Andrew B. Diamond, D.M.D., M.S. (left).

Passion for Life ... Passion for Work

Robert A. Levine, D.D.S., Devotes His Energies to Periodontics' Bright Future and Our Nation's Proud Past

By Barbara A. Alba

Anyone who has had the privilege of meeting Robert A. Levine, D.D.S., undoubtedly comes to the same conclusion: this is a man of great passion and commitment, not just for his work, but also for his many interests in life.

The founder and director of the Pennsylvania Center for Dental Implants & Periodontics, Dr. Levine is a tireless leader of all things related to the field, devoting countless hours to teaching, study groups, clinical research studies, professional editorial boards and organizations, locally, nationally, as well as internationally. Whatever spare time he has is spent raising

tens of thousands of dollars for Civil-War related organizations whose mission it is to preserve and honor this seminal event in American history. It is a mission for which Dr. Levine has a deep and abiding passion.

His efforts are channeled through the 69th Pennsylvania Irish Volunteers, a Civil War reenactment band that Dr. Levine helped to organize in 1999. The group will be releasing their second CD, entitled "In Their Honor," a haunting collection of Civil War ballads and Irish music that harkens back to the battlefield of Gettysburg where the 69th Pennsylvania Irish

Volunteers — the fighting regiment after which the band was named — fought and died (see sidebar on page 8).

But it is his work in the field of periodontics and dental implants for which Dr. Levine is most well-known. One of the pioneers of the “immediate load” revolution in dental implants, Dr. Levine is one of only a handful of periodontists nationwide who have been performing this procedure for more than 10 years. And it is his opinion, along with countless others in the field, that immediate load dental implants are the future.

SAMEDAY SMILE®: TECHNOLOGY WITH A DECADE OF CLINICAL RESEARCH BEHIND IT

The prevailing view of immediate loading is that it is a relatively new technology that is only beginning to catch on due to the high profile it has been gaining through TV makeover programs — where immediate results are demanded. Not so, says Dr. Levine. The procedure has been performed by a handful of highly skilled periodontists around the country — including Levine — for more than 10 years and has amassed an amazing number of successful case studies and clinical research.

“My good friend and research colleague, Dr. Jeff Ganeles of Boca Raton, FL, saw several episodes of [TV program] “Extreme Makeover” and noticed that the cases involving missing teeth were all being treated with crowns and bridges. He contacted the producers and told them that there was a better, faster and more clinically sound way of treating missing teeth,” explained Dr. Levine. He has now been on four episodes of the program, plus two episodes of the British counterpart to “Extreme Makeover,” and that has obviously raised the profile of immediate loading in the public eye.

Dr. Levine himself has been helping to educate the public about the procedure through his affiliation with MDTV, a national patient advocacy group which delivers medical communication and education through its award-winning news television program, public service announcements and video news releases. Dr. Levine is featured in a half-hour program on MDTV entitled “Periodontists: Dental Implants and Oral Plastic Surgery,” where he discusses SameDay Smile®, his consumer-friendly term for the immediate load procedure. The program will be airing throughout the Delaware Valley over the coming months. This type of community outreach, he believes, is important for a procedure like SameDay Smile®, particularly when there are numerous alternatives to the traditional dental implant process that are also beginning to show up on the airways nationwide.

UNDERSTANDING THE ALTERNATIVES

One example is the “one-hour” dental implant process, which has been heavily marketed by the manufacturers behind

it. The procedure has its place in the clinical arena, says Dr. Levine, but he cautions that there are significant limitations to its application.

“At this stage, the one-hour dental implant procedure only works with a patient who has a full set of dentures, has healthy gums and bone density and has a fairly clean medical history,” explains Levine. “That greatly limits the population that can benefit from it.”

On the other hand, SameDay Smile® can be used for a single missing tooth, several teeth or an entire set of upper and lower teeth. It can accommodate the presence of other dental appliances, such as existing crown and bridge, and is often performed on patients with advanced periodontal disease and/or poor bone density. Dr. Levine and his associate, Andrew B. Diamond, D.M.D., M.S., perform numerous “hybrid” cases that involve bone grafts, tissue regeneration, gum “lifts” and other ancillary

SameDay Smile® (immediate load)	One-Hour Dental Implants
Can treat one missing tooth or entire mouth.	Can only be used for full mouth restorations, which may require unnecessary extractions.
Can accommodate other dental appliances such as crowns/bridges.	Cannot accommodate other dental appliances.
Bone grafting can be performed simultaneously when sufficient bone is not present.	Patient must be in optimal health with no periodontal disease and with sufficient bone density and keratinized gingiva to hold implant.
Can accommodate a wide range of medical/dental related conditions.	Final restoration must be screw-retained, which is not always aesthetically pleasing.
Final restoration can be cemented, which is more natural looking and aesthetically pleasing.	Very limited research and case study history.
More than 10 years of clinical research; case study success reported at more than 99 percent.	

The Center uses state-of-the-art digital imaging equipment to present treatment plans to new patients.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MONTI

procedures that are necessary to bring the patient's mouth into optimal dental health.

The success rate of immediate load dental implants today hovers around 99 percent, a remarkable statistic. Since 1993, Dr. Levine has been participating in multi-center, long-term studies about dental implant survival through the International Team for Implantology (ITI) of Basel, Switzerland, which is made up of clinicians, teachers and scientists from around the world. "Our focus has been on posterior tooth implants, the area of the mouth with the greatest forces of occlusion, which is a large factor for implants," says Dr. Levine. "Still, we've just published our fourth study, which reports a success rate of over 98 percent."

"PLASTIC SURGEONS OF THE MOUTH"

Periodontists are known as the "plastic surgeons of the mouth" because of their ability to shape and sculpt teeth and gums, augment deficient tissue and bone, and replace tooth roots with strong titanium anchors that can restore natural-looking teeth. Technological and biomedical advances have given the periodontist almost unlimited tools to use in restoring even the most dramatic and complex cases.

"The advances in the field in the past 10 years have been remarkable," says Dr. Diamond. "I'm actually part of a research team that is working in conjunction with LifeNet (the nation's largest nonprofit tissue banking system) on an exciting new bone preservation technique. There are studies like this going on all the time. It is an amazing time to be a periodontist."

These advances allow Dr. Levine and Dr. Diamond to correct a wide variety of dental complaints, including:

- A "Gummy Smile": Excessive gingival display can be corrected with crown lengthening procedures, which are accomplished by removing excess soft and hard tissue and creating a better proportion between teeth and gums.

Dr. Levine performs a SameDay Smile® on a patient with assistants Sharon and Judy.



More About ... Robert A. Levine, D.D.S.

Educational and Professional Background:

- 1977: B.S., University of Maryland, College Park
- 1981: D.D.S., Temple University School of Dentistry
- 1984: Certificate in Periodontics, University of Pennsylvania, School of Dental Medicine, Post Graduate Periodontics

Professional Affiliations:

- Diplomate, American Board of Periodontology
- Chairman Emeritus, Division of Periodontics, Albert Einstein Medical Center (1984 – 2003)
- Clinical Associate Professor, Post-Graduate Periodontics, Prosthesis and Implantology, University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine
- National Medical Expert, MDTV (America's leading resource for medical news and information)
- Fellow, International Team for Implantology (ITI), Basel, Switzerland
- Past President, Philadelphia Society of Periodontology
- Founder, Professional Program Chairman (1984 – Present), Northeast Philadelphia Dental Implant and Periodontal Prosthesis Study Club
- Author of more than 40 published articles on implantology, oral plastic surgery, reconstructive surgery and periodontics.
- Editorial Board Member of *Journal of Periodontology*, *Practical Procedures and Aesthetic Dentistry*, *Implant Realities*, *Inside Dentistry*, *Collaborative Techniques*, and *The Compendium of Continuing Education in Dentistry* (served as Sections Editor in Periodontics for eight years).
- Personal: Married to Sheryl Radin, D.D.S. (Pediatric Dentist, Yardley, PA); two children. In addition to his interest in Civil War reenactment and history, Dr. Levine's hobbies include skiing, hiking, tennis, photography and travel.



Robert A. Levine, D.D.S.

More About ... Andrew B. Diamond, D.M.D., M.S.

Educational and Professional Background:

- 1998: B.A., State University of New York at Buffalo
- 2002: D.M.D., University of Pittsburgh, School of Dental Medicine
- 2005: Certificate in Periodontics, University of Maryland, Baltimore College of Dental Surgery
- 2005: Master of Science, University of Maryland, Baltimore College of Dental Surgery

Professional Affiliations:

- Member of the American Dental Association, the Pennsylvania Dental Association, the American Academy of Periodontology, the International Association for Dental Research and the Eastern Dental Society.
- Board Eligible by the American Board of Periodontology.
- Recipient, *Quintessence* Magazine's Award for Excellence in Periodontics.
- Clinical Instructor, University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine.
- Personal: Married to wife, Shiri, one daughter (born April 2005). Hobbies include skiing, hiking, music, art and traveling.



Andrew B. Diamond, D.M.D., M.S.

Case No. 1: Sue, 55-Year-Old Female

Presented: February 2004

Chief Concern: Aesthetic concerns with her maxillary teeth and smile; patient desired a permanent solution.

Diagnosis: Generalized advanced periodontitis.

Periodontal Risk Factors: One pack a day smoker; prior full-mouth periodontal

surgery four years prior; parafunctional habits; gum disease in the family.

Treatment Plan: SameDay Smile® dental implant for maxillary jaw (eight implants to be placed for a final cemented crown and bridge restoration); nonsurgical periodontal therapy (lower jaw) with systemic oral antibiotic therapy; surgical extractions of 10 teeth using bone preservation techniques; periodontal maintenance every three months.



Pre-Treatment smile: Patient did not like the flaring of No. 7 and No. 8 and the corresponding soft tissue loss.



Pre-Treatment clinical view.



Pre-Treatment FMX.



Three Days Post-Surgery: With immediate loaded screw-retained fixed provisional (No. 4 through No. 13). Straumann Dental Implants (Andover, MA).



Immediate Load Provisional in place at three days. (Note sutures still in place).



Post-Treatment smile.



Post-Treatment clinical view.



Post-Treatment: Three-piece C&B fixed bridgework.

Restorative Therapy: Dr. Steven Present, Lansdale, PA. Laboratory: Newtech Dental Lab, Lansdale, PA ((215) 699-8861)

Case No. 2: Larry, 55-Year-Old Male

Presented: August 2004

Chief Complaint: Aesthetics; health, comfort and function; desires a permanent solution.

Diagnosis: Generalized advanced aggressive periodontitis.

Periodontal Risk Factors: One pack a day smoker; poor compliance to prevention (many years between dental visits); clenching habit; gum

disease in the family.

Treatment Plan: SameDay Smile® for mandibular jaw (eight implants to be placed for a final screw-retained hybrid restoration); surgical extractions of all remaining teeth using bone preservation techniques with immediate implant placement; future bilateral sinus augmentation with insertion of eight implants for a maxillary fixed hybrid restoration; periodontal maintenance every three months.



Pre-Treatment smile: Patient did not like his loose, flared unaesthetic teeth.



Pre-Treatment clinical view.



Pre-Treatment panorex.



SameDay Smile® immediate load screw-retained FLD converted provisional (day of surgery). Straumann Dental Implants (Andover, MA).



Screw-retained provisional in place on day of surgery.



Post-Treatment smile.



Post-Treatment clinical view.



Post-Treatment panorex.

Restorative Therapy: Dr. Fred Weiss, Philadelphia, PA. Laboratory: Collins Dental Laboratory, Philadelphia, PA ((215) 677-1070)

Case No. 3: Alan, 48-Year-Old Male

Presented: August 2003

Chief Concern: Aesthetic and health concerns with his mouth in general; numerous loose teeth; patient desired a permanent solution.

Diagnosis: Generalized advanced aggressive periodontitis.

Periodontal Risk Factors: Diabetes and gum disease in the family; erratic to poor compliance to prevention; parafunctional bruxing habit.

Treatment Plan: SameDay Smile® six implant hybrid case; surgical extraction of all maxillary and mandibular teeth using bone preservation techniques; immediate FUD placed with immediate implants placed in the lower; socket preservation (with autogenous bone; bovine bone and collagen membrane); completion of mandibular hybrid restoration three months later; maxillary jaw implant placement with final case being a patient removable crown sleeve coping case; periodontal maintenance every three months.



Pre-Treatment smile



Pre-Treatment clinical view.



Pre-Treatment panorex.



SameDay Smile® immediate load screw-retained FLD converted provisional (day of surgery) Straumann Dental Implants (Andover, MA).



Screw-retained provisional in place day of surgery.



Post-Treatment smile.



Post-Treatment clinical view. Maxillary case: Crown Sleeve Coping Removable. Mandibular case: Fixed hybrid.



Post Treatment panorex.

Restorative Therapy: Dr. Donald Katz, Philadelphia, PA. Laboratory: Edward Dental Studio, Southampton, PA ((215) 396-7545).

Dental Community Support for The 69th Fighting Irish Volunteers

The music of the 69th Pennsylvania Irish Volunteers is a tribute to the lives of men who lived and died more than 140 years ago, in one of the bloodiest clashes in the Civil War, and ultimately, its turning point. Were it not for the bravery and patriotism of the 69th — comprised primarily of poor Irish immigrants who had just left their own country's misery behind with the "Great Hunger" — the direction of our country would have been drastically altered.

It is a story of patriotism, teamwork and bravery that resonates strongly with Dr. Levine and the other members of the band, including vocalists/songwriters/guitarists George Levens and Brian Rock; Brad Upp, guitarist (along with Dr. Levine); Scott Eller, bass; Mike Fox and Terri Kane, mandolins; Steve Present, D.D.S., banjo; Sean Earnest, tin whistle and guitar; John Kopich, bodhran; William Vitez, fiddle; and vocalists Ginny Rothenberger, Rich Hickman, Doug Thomas, Mick Chambers and brothers Gil and Rick Howard.

The band's second CD, entitled, "In Their Honor," will be released in the spring, and Dr. Levine is very optimistic that they will exceed the funds that were raised from the sales of their first CD, "Rock of Erin" (more than 3,500 copies sold nationwide). Proceeds from their CD sales go to organizations which — like the 69th Pennsylvania Irish Volunteers — are devoted to preserving the memory of the Civil War heroes and heroines, including the Civil War Preservation Trust and the Friends of the National Park at Gettysburg. In addition to these organizations, the 69th has made donations directly for Civil War classroom education, tombstone dedication (more than 40 placed to date), the NYC 9/11 Fund for Policemen and Firemen, the WWII Memorial and the Philadelphia Irish Memorial. Since the band was founded, it has raised more than \$75,000.

Dr. Levine is quick to point out that nearly two-thirds of the funds that were raised for the production of the two CDs have come from the dental community, his friends and associates from the Delaware Valley, as well as across the country. "The outpouring of support has been incredible and so very much appreciated," says Dr. Levine. "It is a cause that not many people may initially think about, but when they hear the music and learn more about the human drama and heroism surrounding the Civil War, it really speaks to their heart."

To order a copy of "Rock of Erin" (released 2002) and/or "In Their Honor" (released 2006), and help support the Civil War Preservation Trust (more than 50,000 members nationwide), send a check for \$18.95 for each CD ordered (made out to The 69th Pennsylvania Irish Volunteers) to P.O. Box 14598, Philadelphia, PA, 19115, or visit them on the Web at www.pa69Irish.com. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

• *Exposed Roots/Receding Gums:* Soft tissue grafts can be used to cover roots, develop gum tissue where absent due to excessive gingival recession, or make porcelain veneers, crowns and dental implants look natural.

• *Bone/Tissue Loss:* Reconstructive oral plastic surgery, such as soft and hard tissue grafts, tissue stimulating proteins or membrane placements can be used to encourage the body's natural ability to regrow bone and tissue. Sinus augmentation can also be performed when bone loss is in close proximity to the sinus.

I've always said that teams outperform individuals, especially when performance requires multiple skills, judgment and expertise.

— Robert A. Levine, D.D.S.

Dr. Levine stresses that the best results are achieved through a team approach, where a restorative/cosmetic dentist, endodontist or orthodontist works hand-in-hand with his office to develop the treatment plan and work in tandem throughout the treatment period. "I've always said that teams outperform individuals, especially when performance requires multiple skills, judgment and expertise," says Levine. "When the process is seamless, the patient's experience is extremely positive. There are many outstanding dentists in our region, and we believe that together, we can provide the best solutions and outcomes that our field can offer."

For a man who is so passionate about his work, there is no greater thrill than that. ■



The Pennsylvania Center for Dental Implants & Periodontics
Einstein Center One Building, Suite 211 – 212
9880 Bustleton Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19115
www.PAdentalimplants.com
Phone: (215) 677-8686
Fax: (215) 677-7212