

# IT'S YOUR HEALTH

## IMMEDIATE DENTAL IMPLANTS ARE LATEST DENTAL BREAKTHROUGH

For people with missing or damaged teeth, the best solution is often a dental implant, a surgically-implanted tooth that is rooted to the jawbone with a surgical screw. Sounds appealing, doesn't it? Well, if the "ick" factor wasn't enough, the dental implant procedure is also notorious for being long and laborious, often involving dozens visits to the dentist over a 6 – 12 month period.

An alternative has finally arrived. A recent episode of ABC-TV's "Extreme Makeover" featured a revolutionary dental procedure that will soon leave the traditional dental implant process in the dust. It's known in the profession as "immediate loading" and it allows a patients to literally have a new set of teeth in less than 24 hours.

Local implant surgeon and periodontist Robert A. Levine, DDS, is one of only a handful of dentists nationwide who have been treating patients with the immediate loading procedure for more than 10 years.

Traditionally, once the lengthy dental implant process was complete, patients typically waited for many months to determine

if the implant anchor had properly bonded to the jawbone before replacement teeth could be affixed, which meant having an unsightly open gap during that period. The immediate loading process – which Levine's practice has branded SameDay Smile® – eliminates a significant number of office visits and does away with the wait, utilizing a "bone-friendly" threaded titanium anchor to immediately give the replacement tooth a solid and lasting foundation.

Research and years of successful experience in joint replacement procedures have shown titanium to be ideal in its biological compatibility with the human body. With SameDay Smile, the metallic implant bonds with the jawbone to create a foundation that is stronger than the original tooth root. This means the patient can walk out with a new set of affixed provisional teeth in the same day, with virtually no down time in terms of appearance or functionality. SameDay Smile also offers a significant reduction in time spent in the dental chair and a considerable reduction in pain, complications and discomfort. Final restoration is typically completed within two months.

The strong documented success rate of dentists like Levine has created the rationale to bring immediate loading into mainstream practice. With the exposure gained through programs like "Extreme Makeover," demand will be building exponentially.

Levine recently co-produced an educational television program with Jeffrey Ganeles, DMD, the surgeon who was featured on "Extreme Makeover." The program, which is distributed by Medical News Now, a patient advocate group and leading source of medical news and information, will be shown on local cable channels throughout the year.

"Although the procedure is not new, it is



**Dr. Robert A. Levine and his team at the Pennsylvania Center for Dental Implants and Periodontics.**

truly revolutionary when compared to the traditional dental implant process. Reducing the treatment time from several months to 24 hours not only provides immediate results, it also means less complications and a better opportunity for long-term success," explains Levine. "I expect that many people who have held off on dental implants in the past will have an immediate change of heart when they hear about this new procedure."

A Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology, Levine is chairman emeritus of the Division of Periodontics (1984 – 2004) at Albert Einstein Medical Center and currently clinical associate professor in post-graduate periodontics, perio-prosthesis and implantology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. He has lectured extensively both nationally and internationally and has published close to 50 articles in professional journals. Levine is involved in long-term clinical studies on dental implant success and is a Fellow of the prestigious International Team for Implantology of Basel, Switzerland, made up of clinicians, teachers and scientists from around the world. His office is located at Einstein Center One, Bustleton Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.

“SameDay Smile® allows patients to have a new set of teeth in less than 24 hours.”