



## PERIO POINTERS

### Implants for Edentulous Cases

One of the nicest things you can do for your edentulous patients is to suggest implants. This is particularly true of those with mandibular dentures.

I really like the idea of two or three implants on the mandibular arch with locator attachments. I feel you can use 10 mm implants and have enough stability. The use of the locator attachments does a couple of things. One it does not stick above the ridge a great deal so you do not need the 7 mm of space you would need for a bar attachment. Locators are about a third of just the lab cost of a bar. Implants can be off alignment by thirty degrees and locators can still be used. Heaven forbid I could not get them in in perfect alignment every time. Also locators have a better crown to root ratio, if you will think about it in terms of teeth, so that there is less force on the implants.

One neat idea I have seen is the placement of a notch on the buccal of the denture so the patient has something to grab to remove the denture. Many of these patients are elderly or have arthritis and these appliances do have good retention.

February 2008



**Excellence I can reach for,  
perfection is God's business.  
Michael J. Fox**

### Newsletter Spotlight

I really feel you can help your mandibular edentulous patients with implants and locator attachments. It will certainly help with retention and is relatively inexpensive compared to a bar overdenture and relatively easy to restore.

### Case Study



This patient was referred for implants as she had to go to a mandibular denture. She was diabetic, but we felt she could be treated. The teeth were extracted and since I did not want to put her through multiple procedures the implants were placed the same day. Two of the implants were placed in the socket areas which we just extracted and a third implant was placed in the #21 position. Locator attachments and a mandibular denture was done. Even though I have lack of keratinized tissue on the facial of #21 she has done very well and with her medical history, I prefer not to do any more surgery on her than necessary. If she were in good health, I would not hesitate to do an autogenous graft there. Not my best case, but a significant improvement for her over a conventional denture.