

**CHEWING  
EFFICIENCY**

For purposes of comparison, let us assume that the patient with all of his own natural teeth in a healthy, well-maintained, functionally accurate condition can operate when chewing at 100 percent efficiency that will decrease with every tooth lost. How much decrease there will be will depend on whether or not the teeth are replaced and in what manner. Ultimately, if he reaches the point where he has no teeth at all, he may have (with good fitting dentures on adequate bony ridges) a chewing efficiency of perhaps 15 to 18 percent.

If the ridges are not adequate, the percentage decreases. With implants and non-removable bridgework, or well-supported tooth replacement methods, he may get back as high as 85 percent compared with what he had with his natural teeth, depending on the number of natural teeth present and their condition.

**MEDICAL  
EXAMINATION**

This is an absolute necessity! We will provide you with a "Medical History Verification" form to take to your physician. He will verify your medical and current general health. He will provide us with results of recent examination records including blood tests and urinalysis. He will make indications of drug allergies and/or alternative recommendations. We want to make sure you are healthy and that there is no reason why you should not heal very nicely. We also want your medical doctor to be aware of the treatment we will be providing you and the medications we may prescribe.

**HOME CARE**

The dental care you provide yourself at home must be excellent. You must keep your teeth and implants cleaner than you may have done before in your life. You must be able to use a toothbrush, dental floss, or other devices we may recommend to keep plaque off of both your teeth and the implants. If this is not done, there is a very good possibility that the implants will not succeed, and will have to be removed. By the same token, smoking and excessive alcohol consumption are a deterrent to excellent dental health as well.

**X-RAYS**

You must have a very complete examination with x-rays which will include a panoramic x-ray of your entire mouth. X-rays are necessary for proper diagnosis and follow-up after treatment is complete.