

**OPPOSING TEETH**

The teeth or denture which are in the arch opposite to the implanted area compose a very important consideration in the success of the implant. The load on the implant is not actually in use. There must not be any grinding of the teeth at night (bruxism) against the implant. Also, care must be taken not to overload the implant by chewing ice or hard objects which could damage even your natural teeth. The patient should not engage in fights or do anything else which could be damaging to the implant or the underlying bone.

**LOSS OF NERVE SENSATION**

There are cases reported in the dental literature in which there is temporary loss of nerve sensation following certain surgical procedures. This does happen sometimes, but is usually temporary. Unfortunately, there have been instances where complete nerve sensation has not returned even after many years. There have been such occurrences following removal of deeply impacted wisdom teeth. It is possible that such a thing could happen with the placement of implants in the bone. It is usually temporary, and is a loss of nerve sensation only and does not cause a drooping or sagging of the face.

**ARE ALL IMPLANTS SUCCESSFUL ?**

No. There are many variables to be considered in placing the implant. First, the patient must be healthy. There must be adequate healing powers present in the patient. If the patient is an uncontrolled diabetic, for example, the chances for healing are not too good and could be quite a problem. If such a condition develops at a later date after the implant has been done, this will certainly complicate the future of the implant. Secondly, proper diagnosis must be made, and the proper implant must be selected for the patient, and of course, inserted properly. Thirdly, it must be treated properly by the patient and the dentist. If either person becomes forgetful, there could be a problem. Fourthly, if the patient is a heavy smoker or an excessive alcoholic beverage user, the success of the implant will be affected. It certainly is not a help!

**WILL IMPLANTS LAST A LIFETIME ?**

It is doubtful. Very few things do last a lifetime. There are some implants which have been in the mouth for as long as thirty years. This is not the average. The average has been in less than that time. In the final analysis, whether they last a lifetime depends on how long you live. Every natural tooth in the mouth of everyone of us now living will have one of two possible fates. It will either last until we die, or it will be removed at sometime. The same thing applies to implants.