

In dental school we used to tell patients "one day we will be able to put an implant in your mouth to replace those missing teeth." Now that that milestone has passed we talk about placing implants in one day. But is that really what you want? If the answer is yes, then yes we can. If you want the best, most predictable long-term results, then you need to closely evaluate all of the options.

In some cases, an immediate implant is a very good solution. However, anytime we place an implant there are many considerations: How much bone is available, how hard is it, how vascular, is there any infection or disease in the site, what types of chewing forces do you generate, are there any medical complications, do you smoke? The point is that there are many factors you may not be aware of, and some that we cannot even measure or evaluate. Sometimes implants succeed despite all of the negatives, sometimes they fail in a perfect set of circumstances. This does not mean you are rolling the dice, only that there are no guarantees.

So you end up doing what the studies and data suggest is going to provide the greatest likelihood of success in any particular situation. If you tell your dentist that your measure of success is having the implant in one day, then the other factors have less weight in the decision. The studies and data definitely show that it is possible to do immediate implants in certain cases, but they do not show that immediate placement is the best long-term solution.

Any dentist can place an implant in one day. It is actually easier and less costly and more productive than taking several steps. The question is: Do you want to go somewhere that promises everyone an implant in one day? Or do you want to go somewhere that will provide the best choices for your case? Do you go to a car dealer and say, "which one can I drive off the lot right now?" Why would you want to do that with something you are going to have placed in your body? All correct answers receive an immediate implant!