

HOW TO SELECT AN IMPLANT SPECIALIST

Dental Implants TODAY

ONE DAY
IMPLANTS

LATEST
ADVANCES
IN DENTAL
IMPLANTS

DENTURES
— OR —
IMPLANTS?

WHICH OPTION
AND WHY

Dr. Allen
HUANG

THE TOOTH FAIRY FOR ADULTS





DR. ALLEN HUANG

Dr. Allen Huang

The Tooth Fairy for Adults

Like most things in life, you don't fully understand how important your teeth are until they're gone. Or, at least, until they're in serious disrepair. Fortunately, periodontist and dental implant surgeon Dr. Allen Huang, DMD, MS, can restore everything patients have lost, using the latest technology and the breakthrough All-on-4™ implant method.

A Better Solution to Tooth Loss

The founder and CEO of Significance Dental Specialists in Las Vegas, Dr. Huang was raised in central California's bucolic Lake Isabella. He earned a degree in chemical engineering from the University of California at Los Angeles, but he was introduced to the field of periodontics before

launching his career in Silicon Valley. Something clicked for him immediately.

Dr. Huang went back to school—this time at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, an Ivy League institution where he earned a dental degree, followed by three years of training in periodontics and implant dentistry at the University of Illinois at Chicago. During that

time, he was named the first Chief-Resident in program history and was involved in a clinical and histological study of platelet-rich plasma in sinus lift bone regeneration.

He then opened Significance Dental Specialists as a specialty practice where he and highly skilled colleagues offer everything from root canals to orthodontics. Dr. Huang, however, is particularly



excited about the ability to improve patients' lives through dental implants, the niche that initially attracted him to periodontology.

In a nutshell, dental implants permanently replace teeth you've lost or that need to be removed. That permanence means you don't take an appliance or denture in and out of your mouth, there is nothing to try to adhere into your mouth, and you don't have to deal with a long list of potentially embarrassing denture issues. They look, feel, and function like your own teeth.

That's a big departure from the realities of living with dentures. Though dentures remain the most common solution for missing teeth, the drawbacks are significant. The most notable medical disadvantage is the fact that dentures allow jaw bone deterioration, as jaw bone dissolves over time without the roots of your teeth present. They're also notoriously unstable, resulting in plates that slip while eating or talking.

Then there's the temporary nature of dentures, which comes as a shock to many people. They last only about five to seven years before wearing out. Not to mention that as you age, dentures need to be readjusted to fit the changing shape of your jaw. Eventually, enough bone structure will be lost that adhesives are the only option to keep your dentures in place; this, unfortunately, limits the ability to speak and chew and alters the structure of your face.

Customized Smiles

So why settle for dentures when implants can truly replace your teeth?

Dr. Huang and his team use cutting-edge technology and techniques—like Cone Beam Scan, iTero Digital Impression, Piezosurgery, X-Nav Guided System, and CGF Plasma—to make the implant process exceptionally accurate and easy on patients. Take the iTero system, for example, which eliminates the need for messy, error-filled impression trays. Instead of biting into a gloppy tray, a patient's mouth and bite are digitally scanned, with the images transmitted to the laboratory computer so an accurate model can be created.

The i-CAT and Cone Beam Imaging systems generate 3D images and high-definition x-rays within seconds. "The panoramic images are remarkably clear, which helps with diagnosing and treating dental ailments in avoiding the sinus cavities and anatomical nerve position," Dr. Huang says. "And unlike traditional x-ray systems, the Cone Beam system produces a very low dose of radiation, thus reducing unnecessary exposure."

Also, believe it or not, advanced imaging technology is less expensive than traditional methods. Couple that with the ability to customize implants, whether a single tooth or many teeth, to your exact needs and it's

easy to see why so many patients are turning to Dr. Huang's high-tech solutions to regain what Mother Nature has taken away through decay or periodontal disease. Dr. Huang is especially excited with the new X-Nav Guided technology, implant placement with the GPS guided system.

Dr. Huang is a fan of the All-on-4 method, which works to replace missing teeth on an entire upper arch, lower arch, or both. "It's a complete smile makeover in just one day," he says, "and the All-on-4 procedure can help people get back 90 percent of their original teeth function."

The near-magical quality of the All-on-4 procedure stuns many patients, Dr. Huang says, pointing to both the one-day transformation and the newfound ability to eat previously off-limit foods as pleasant surprises.

Because of everything that's possible through dental implants, not to mention the importance of getting them right, Dr. Huang strongly advises potential patients to do their homework in order to find the right doctor. "Make sure any doctors you're considering have the right training and background, that they do over 500 implants each year, and that they have technology such as 3D x-ray, Guided Implant Placement System, and Digital Impression in their office," he says.

In fact, the biggest mistake he sees as a periodontist and implant surgeon is people ➡





Tzu Chi Outreach

using price alone to choose a practitioner—and then being disappointed by the results. However, perhaps more patients are getting the message that expertise matters when it comes to implants because individuals come from all over the country to take advantage of Dr. Huang's know-how. Attracted by Significance Dental Specialists' team of skilled medical professionals, patients are discovering the beauty of a smile makeover in Sin City.

Experience Meets Compassion

And no wonder so many are indulging in dental tourism. Dr. Huang is among one of only six Diplomates, a reference to the significant achievements he's made beyond the mandatory educational requirements of his specialty, in the field of Periodontics in the Las Vegas Valley. As CEO of international dental implant company Altosbiotech, he has helped more than 20,000 patients in nine countries transform their smiles and enjoy a better quality of life. He is an in-demand speaker and teacher, as well as co-author of the Amazon bestselling book, *Ignite Your Life*. Patients also appreciate that he volunteers his expertise to the less fortunate during quarterly visits to a local homeless shelter to provide free dental work.

The patient experience is what really matters, Dr. Huang believes,

which is why he has made Significance Dental Specialists a stress-free zone for patients. While he doesn't advocate choosing medical providers based on cost, he is very aware that price matters. The practice always offers consultations to discuss a patient's needs and how Significance can meet those needs.

Another stress he has removed is fear of the dentist and, especially, the dental surgeon. Dr. Huang says the most difficult aspect of his career is how often patients relate a bad experience they've had and how those experiences have led to fear. From faster, more accurate scans to Cone Beam technology that allows the team to plan a customized procedure to protect nerve endings, Dr. Huang uses technology to minimize pain and speed healing.

Everything he has accomplished and continues to work toward professionally can be traced back to that initial enthusiasm for helping people live better through healthier teeth. "The best part about my job is helping people smile again," he says. "Making them feel good, look good, and eat well with their new set of teeth is a daily joy."

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Implants Vs. Dentures

So long, dentures. Hello, implants! Dentures have been the go-to tooth replacement system for centuries. And while they're certainly better than nothing, there is no comparison to dental implants when it comes to comfort, aesthetics, and chewing mechanics.

"What I love about implants is that they offer a stable, permanent replacement for teeth," says Dr. Huang. "They're made of superior materials, preserve a patient's bone health, and vastly improve quality of life."

Dr. Huang reports that many patients who initially opted for removable dentures are switching to dental implants. The reasons are numerous, but the most obvious is that implants feel and respond like natural teeth, allowing for more natural eating while eliminating the embarrassing slipping or clicking common with dentures.

Plus, implants aren't a one-size-fits-all option; they're fully customizable to each patient's needs. "Patients who are missing teeth but aren't good candidates for traditional implants, for example, are usually great candidates for the All-on-4™ procedure," Huang says. "Traditional implants require sufficient bone density for successful placement," he explains. "All-on-4 implants combine the advantages of both dentures and dental implants into one replacement method."

Dr. Huang says that bone grafts are rarely needed for All-on-4 patients, even those with low bone density. Instead, he strategically places four titanium dental implants in the jaw bone at angles and locations that secure the prosthetic and evenly distribute the force of a patient's bite. The process offers health benefits, too, including stabilized bone volume levels and a reduced recovery period after replacement of missing teeth.

What's more, All-on-4 can deliver a new smile in a single day. You'll leave the office with a set of temporary teeth, rather than going bare-mouthed over the next three to six months as the implant posts integrate with your bone. Once the healing process is complete, Dr. Huang removes the temporary teeth and permanently secures the final prosthetic.

So chew on this: With better function and a more natural look, implants are the tooth-restoration solution that lets you be you.



Dr. Huang was named Top dentist 2018