New option for missing teeth

For many years, people with chronic dental problems or missing teeth had limited options. They could continue with the endless cycle and expense of root canals, crowns and other restorations; live with the chewing, speaking and comfort problems often associated with dentures; or pay the extremely high costs of dental implants.

Now Drs. Andrew Spector and Michael Migdal, practitioners in Haworth, N.J., who have long been at the forefront of dental implant technology, are one of a relative handful of dentists throughout the country (and the only ones in the New York metropolitan area) to offer patients the benefits of “permanent teeth” at about half to one-third the cost of implants, and in a fraction of the time.

Hybridge™ — a hybrid bridge system — is a mix between a conventional fixed bridge and a denture. Unlike a conventional bridge made of metal and porcelain, the system uses a resin and monomer bridge restoration that replaces up to 12 teeth and is supported on five or six dental implants. It is not intended for people requiring single tooth implants, but rather sectional or complete mouth restoration.

The teeth look, feel and function just like healthy, natural teeth and last a lifetime. As with conventional implants and unlike dentures, they sit on implants rather than the gum line for greater comfort, allow people to eat and chew as they would with their own teeth, and stimulate the jawbone (thereby preventing the “caved in” look found in people with years of denture-wearing).

While a fixed bridge or removable dentures works for cosmetic reasons and allows the individual to eat and speak clearly, they also pose restrictions — fixed bridges require the filing down of healthy teeth, can weaken adjacent teeth and inhibit maintenance (e.g., you can’t floss between them).

Meanwhile, removable dentures can slip, cause embarrassing clicking sounds and lead to bone loss around teeth they are hooked onto.

“The efficiency and precision of the fabrication with the Hybridge system allows us to keep the fee far lower than traditional implant treatment for those patients who need to replace an entire upper or lower archway,” said Spector, who has been at the forefront of dental implants for many years and taught implantology at NYU Dental School.

“While dental implants remain the ‘gold standard’ for patients replacing single teeth, the cost makes them prohibitive for many who require full mouth or arch restoration, as many older people do.”

Patients for the Hybridge system tend to be older, according to the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, and by age 74 more than one in four American adults have lost all their permanent teeth.

Yet, Spector said that he has also recommended Hybridge for patients who have lost their teeth as a result of early periodontal disease, traumatic injuries and eating disorders, such as bulimia, which cause tooth decay.

Qatar set for new oral health strategy

Qatar’s Supreme Council of Health (SCH) is creating a national oral health strategy.

The strategy is expected to be formulated after completing a nationwide survey on oral health among children and teenagers. Dental caries and periodontal diseases are the most prevalent among schoolchildren and teenagers in the Gulf State.

The study, which will begin in the last quarter of this year, will help improve the existing oral health services and programmes in the country as well as assist to monitor the trends of oral and dental diseases in the country, SCH said.

Two hospitals shut down in Riyadh

Two hospitals in the Saudi capital have been temporarily shut down by the Directorate General of Health Affairs due to violations related to equipment and professional staff, Saudi Gazette has reported.

Professionals should use protective hearing devices.

Other professions that carry risk for hearing impairment are aviation, construction and anything that involves the use of firing guns, such as military and law enforcement careers.

According to the National Institute of Deafness, 56 million Americans suffer from hearing loss, and those exposed to loud and high-frequency noises are most at risk.

In most instances, individuals in the workplace do not test their hearing until after damage occurs. Hearing aid technology can help after damage has already occurred, but professionals recommend hearing protection if working in an environment with exposure to loud sounds.

There are many businesses, such as The Tactical Hearing Co., that offer high-performance digital hearing enhancement and protection.

Tactical Hearing Co. uses the latest advanced technologies and offers affordable hearing devices that can be used in the industries of dentistry as well as construction, aviation, military and law enforcement, target shooting and hunting.