‘An impossible dream’

Elizabeth Scotland still has one of first osseointegrated dental implants in New England, placed in 1983

SHARON, MASS. — The idea that a titanium dental implant could integrate with her jaw bone and give her back the teeth she had lost to periodontal disease once seemed an impossible dream to 87-year-old Elizabeth Scotland.

She had come to the United States with her late husband, Frank, in 1957, seeking opportunities in his chosen trade: tool making. The Scotlands knew there was demand for skilled toolmakers in the Boston area, and he quickly found work and then moved up the ladder at Gillette.

She suffered with a dental plate, almost unable to eat many of the foods she liked.

“I knew there must be something better than the dental plate I had, but to be honest, I thought I’d be gone by the time they got something,” Mrs. Scotland said.

In the early 1980s, she started inquiring and heard about the new osseointegrated dental implant then available from a U.S. training center established by Dr. Paul Schnitman at Harvard University.

“I was just back from the first North American Brånemark training session in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and looking for patients. Mrs. Scotland was a perfect first patient,” Dr. Schnitman remembers. He still sees Mrs. Scotland in his private practice in Wellesley Hills, Mass.

In 1983, he replaced her lower dental plate with five lower implants. When the implants healed and the bone fused with them, porcelain crowns were added, and she still has them today. She received one of the first Brånemark implants done in New England.

“It was heaven. I could eat anything with no problem,” Mrs. Scotland says.

“Dr. Schnitman remembers. Shortly after receiving the implants, her husband was transferred to India to place implants, and the implants remain in place today.

Elizabeth Scotland still has one of first osseointegrated dental implants in New England. Photos/Provided by Dental Implants of Boston

AAIP hosts implant seminars in Jamaica

The American Academy of Implant Prosthodontics (AAIP) joined with its affiliates, Atlantic Dental Implant Seminars (ADIS) and the Linkow Implant Institute, to present a four-day comprehensive implant training course in Kingston, Jamaica, at the University of Technology, School of Oral Health Sciences, from April 23–26, for 18 dentists from Kazakhstan.

The course included lectures, surgical and prosthodontic demonstrations, hands-on participation on anatomic manikins and cadavers, diagnosis and treatment planning of implant cases, the construction of surgical templates, diagnostic wax-ups, the insertion of two to six implants by each participant and sinus lifts under supervision of the course faculty.

The 18 participating dentists inserted 67 implants (six immediate placements), performed eight sinus lifts, uncovered 15 implants placed by participants of previous courses, completed seven guided bone regeneration procedures, inserted four immediate-function overdentures and made multiple impressions of various implant situations with a variety of impression materials and techniques.

Patients were provided by the Ministry of Health and the University of Technology, School of Dental Sciences, of Jamaica.

Upon completion of the 35-hour comprehensive implant training program, participating clinicians were able to accomplish the following tasks: identify cases suitable for dental implants; diagnose and treatment plan for preservation and restoration of edentulous and partially edentulous arches; demonstrate competency in the placement of single tooth implants, soft-tissue management and bone augmentation; obtain an ideal implant occlusion; work as part of an implant team with other professionals; and incorporate implant treatment into private practice with quality results, cost effectiveness and profitability.

Patient treatment was provided in the dental clinic of the University of Technology, School of Oral Health Sciences, Kingston, Jamaica, with per-
manage a Gillette factory there. “Now I could go anywhere with confidence,” she said.

Though implants can be more costly than some dental therapies, Mrs. Scotland does not regret the cost. “I’m just very grateful to have them done. I always try to buy the best, even when buying a small thing for the kitchen. Buy the best,” she said.

About the doctor
Dr. Schnitman currently practices in Wellesley Hills and teaches implant treatment planning, surgery and restoration to advanced graduate periodontal and prosthetics residents at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. He is the recipient of Harvard’s Distinguished Faculty Award and the American Academy of Implant Dentistry’s highest awards: The Gershkoff and The Lew Awards.

His practice, Dental Implants of Boston (www.dentalimplantsboston.com), Wellesley Hills Medical Center, Suite 202, Wellesley Hills, 781-235-9988, specializes in dental implants and “creating beautiful smiles.”

The practice combines Dr. Schnitman’s expertise in both the surgical and restorative aspects of implant dentistry. Dental Implants of Boston provides a full range of dental procedures, from preventive care to the highest level of refinement in cosmetic and restorative dentistry, says Dr. Schnitman.

The practice is committed to providing alternative treatment plans to ensure that patients have every opportunity to understand and participate in their treatment.

(Source: Dental Implants of Boston)

‘She was the perfect patient.’

~ Dr. Paul Schnitman

Elizabeth Scotland’s new smile.

Corrections

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