

## Wickham Dental Care & Implant Preserve features full on-site laboratory and milling capabilities — creating smiles, enhancing the quality of life for patients

By Ken Datzman

Advancement in implant dentistry technology is lifting the profession to new heights, and patients are benefiting from it all. The market has been growing solidly year-over-year, owing to the high precision and effectiveness of the implant treatment.

Three million people have implants and that number is growing by 500,000 a year, says the American Academy of Implant Dentistry.

And there is no shortage of future potential candidates for implants. Based on a survey by the American College of Prosthodontists, about 178 million Americans are missing a single tooth, whereas 40 million of them are completely “edentulous,” or toothless to some degree.

Additionally, a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says about 47 percent of adults age 30 years and older have some form of periodontal disease, and nearly 30 percent of people between the ages of 65 and 70 are devoid of natural teeth.

“More and more people who are missing teeth realize what a difference implant dentistry can make in their lives. It clearly enhances their quality of life. We do a lot of dental implants,” said Dr. Sadesh Kumar, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon and founder of Wickham Dental Care & Implant Preserve in Melbourne.

He added, “Using the most progressive technology, materials, and methods, we create a personalized plan to craft an ideal smile while addressing looks, form, and function.”

A healthy smile signals more than a good mood. It’s a vital part of a healthy life. A smile compromised by missing or damaged teeth can negatively impact an individual’s confidence, job prospects, and self-worth.

Brevard businessman David Thomaselli, a master electrician and owner of Powerhouse Electric, said he had reached the point in his life “where I had to do something about my teeth. Over the years, I had crowns. I had partials. I had different devices in my mouth, and it was a mess. I told myself I have to start the process all over.”

Thomaselli said he was not interested in dentures. “There’s too much maintenance and you have to take them out. I didn’t want my wife to see me without them and I didn’t want to see myself without them. So I decided on implants.” He said he shopped around for dental implant surgeons and chose Dr. Kumar.

“The whole team at that practice is awesome. I had nine teeth pulled in order to put in the implants. The implants are as solid as a rock. I’m very happy. That procedure has greatly enhanced the quality of my life. It was the right thing to do. I’m smiling again.”

A dental implant is an artificial tooth root that is placed into your jaw to hold a replacement tooth or bridge. Dental implants may be an option for people who have lost a tooth or teeth because of periodontal disease, an injury, or some other reason.

It’s no secret that we only have one chance to make a lasting first impression, which can often shape how we are perceived and remembered in both our social and professional lives.

Dental implants are often the best treatment for missing teeth and are the closest you can get to a healthy, natural smile, said Dr. Kumar.

“They restore a patient’s ability to confidently eat, smile, laugh, talk, and enjoy all regular activities of everyday life. Nature gave us two sets of teeth in our



BBN photo — Adrienne B. Roth

Dr. Sadesh Kumar is changing lives through implant dentistry. One of his patients is area businessman David Thomaselli, master electrician and owner of Powerhouse Electric. Dr. Kumar implanted nine teeth for Thomaselli. “The procedure greatly enhanced the quality of my life.” Dr. Kumar recently expanded his practice, which is now called Wickham Dental Care & Implant Preserve. The practice has full implant capabilities, including special milling technology.

lifetime. We have baby teeth and then adult teeth. Implant is the ‘third set of teeth,’ so to speak.”

Dr. Kumar has just expanded his full-service dental practice and added the name Implant Preserve. The practice was called Wickham Dental Care and is now Wickham Dental Care & Implant Preserve.

“We bring art and science together. We can give the patient a new smile in one day, from a single-tooth implant to restoring an entire arch of the mouth with just four implants, what is known as the ‘All-on-4’ treatment concept,” he said.

The All-on-4 treatment concept is a cost-efficient, graftless solution that provides patients with a fixed full-arch prosthesis on the day of surgery, said Dr. Kumar, a member of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry. He has more than 20 years’ experience providing a wide range of dental treatment options for patients.

The All-on-4 implant technique was developed by a dentist in Portugal in cooperation with the company Nobel Biocare.

The procedure allows dentists to place an almost full arch of teeth (no molars are included) in patients with

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poor bone levels by using highly angled implants in only the anterior portion of the jaw, where there is more bone density, said Dr. Kumar. The idea is to provide a shortcut around bone grafting. "The All-on-4 implants look and feel like real teeth," he said.

Dr. Kumar's facility features a full laboratory and a sizable investment in the latest equipment for implant dentistry, including special milling technology. Milling units take the digital impressions and designs created and grind or mill precision restorations quickly. The unit can mill titanium and zirconia material which is vital for dental implant treatment.

"We call it 'teeth-in-a-day.' Technology has revolutionized implant dentistry," he said.

Dr. Kumar's custom facility on Bush Drive, located just south of Lake Washington Road off Wickham Road and across the street from Launch Federal Credit Union, was designed by area architect Dave Nagrodsky of DNA Architects Inc.

The facility features private treatment rooms. The practice's equipment includes a Prexion three-dimensional CT scan that provides high-resolution pictures for digital imaging.

Dr. Kumar said dentistry is being driven by computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing, as well as three-dimensional printing technology. Dentists now do "digital" impressions.

Advances in CAD/CAM technology allows the customization of implants according to the patient's oral anatomy and supports their correct placement for less invasive procedures and shorter recovery times.

Dr. Kumar said the late Dr. Per-Ingvar Branemark is the father of modern dental implants. He died in 2014.

The Swedish orthopedic surgeon discovered that bone fuses to titanium, creating a strong bond. This led to the development of modern, root-form dental implants, which are used throughout the world to replace missing teeth, said Dr. Kumar.

In addition to dental implants, Dr. Branemark also developed procedures for replacing various body parts, such as eyes, ears, and noses, utilizing similar technology to attach the prostheses. But the millions of patients who have benefitted from dental implant treatment are his legacy.

Dr. Kumar uses 3D images and implant surgical planning software to construct a "vivid map of the patient's mouth, pinpoint potential problems, and plan the implant procedure in advance."

During the initial visit, a 3D image is taken to enable Dr. Kumar to assess bone structure and nerve locations, plan the surgery, and mold replacement teeth.

A dental implant is a titanium post, like a tooth root, that is surgically positioned into the jawbone beneath the gum line that allows a dentist to mount replacement teeth.

An implant doesn't come lose like a denture can. Dental implants also benefit general oral health because they do not have to be anchored to other teeth, like bridges, said Dr. Kumar.

"Titanium implants over time fuse naturally with the bone," a process known as "osteointegration." Implant surgery can replace one or more teeth provided there is sufficient bone to support the implants.

Would-be implant patients "should have the procedure done as soon as possible after losing a tooth to prevent bone loss at the site," said Dr. Kumar.

He is a graduate of the prestigious Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh, Scotland, which was founded in 1505. Dr. Kumar was awarded a Diploma of Membership of the Faculty of Dental Surgery. His interests in oral surgery and implantology led him to further his training at Louisiana State University, where he completed a Fellowship in oral and maxillofacial surgery.

He earned his doctor of dental medicine degree from Nova Southeastern University's College of Dental Medicine.

Dr. Kumar's "desire to provide the highest quality of care and treatment" for his patients motivated him to continue his education at the renowned Misch International Implant Institute in Michigan.

In 1984, Dr. Carl Misch founded the Misch International Implant Institute, which was one of the first hands-on, one-year continuums for dental-implant education in the world.

The Institute's scientifically based curriculum remains at the forefront of implant dentistry today through research, education, and its clinical applications.

The Misch philosophy and teachings have evolved and expanded through the years. The instruction is not only taught in many U.S. cities, but also at locations in Brazil, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Korea, Monaco, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

In 2014, the American Dental Association honored Dr. Misch with its Distinguished Service Award. He was an implant dentistry trailblazer, educator, and researcher. Dr. Misch died in 2017 at age 69.

"Attending the Misch International Institute was one of the great experiences of my career in dentistry," said Dr. Kumar.



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