

A HEALTHY SMILE EQUALS A *happy patient*

The powerful impact of a periodontal transformation.

BY AMANPREET DHAMI

olga's STORY

When Olga sought treatment from Dr. Herbert Veisman BSc, DDS, FRCD(C), a periodontal specialist (torontoimplant.com) based in Toronto, she felt like she had no other choice but to get a complete smile makeover. "My old crowns were decayed, so I could no longer use them and I had to have them removed to get new ones. I had eight cracked teeth. I started feeling pain on one of the cracked crowns, and that was when Dr. Veisman discovered that it was a decaying tooth, which was causing me pain, so we started the whole process," explains Olga.

During Olga's consultation with Dr. Veisman, she was given a variety of options: "some that were cheaper but not very durable in the long run" explains Olga. "I felt very comfortable and reassured by his expertise when speaking to him, and I would definitely recommend him to others." For example, Olga did not want to be without her teeth at any time during the treatment process, so "we reassured Olga that she would have transitional temporary teeth at all times and that no one else would be aware that she ever had any work done," explains Dr. Veisman.

"Dr. Veisman [who was recommended by Dr. Anthony Tao, DDS, Olga's regular dentist] and Dr. Tao are both highly qualified professionals. They listened to me and helped me throughout each step. I am very happy with not only the results but also the way that it proceeded throughout."

Since the completion of her procedure, Olga feels an "incredible difference. I feel more confident and better about myself. I can smile without having to close my mouth to make my mouth invisible. It's a great difference!"

DON'T WAIT FOR A *referral!*

"Although periodontists are dental specialists, unlike in the medical profession, no referral from a dentist is necessary. Anyone who suspects she may have gum disease, a gummy smile or missing teeth can seek out the services of a periodontist on her own," says Dr. Veisman.

PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

OLGA'S TREATMENT PLAN

Gum lift, tooth extractions, bone grafts, dental implants and crown and bridge. COLLABORATION WITH: Dr. Anthony Tao, DDS, of Richmond Hill, Ont.

STAGE 1 The removal of eight cracked and hopeless existing teeth, a gum lift procedure to correct the proportions between tooth and gum that show when she smiles, bone grafting, and six dental implants supporting two bridges that replace the missing eight teeth.

STAGE 2 During the transitional healing phase of three months, Olga wore a provisional appliance (much like a retainer after wearing orthodontic braces) that masked the fact that she was missing eight teeth. She was able to eat, laugh and talk normally at every stage of treatment.

STAGE 3 On completion of healing, Olga's dentist, Dr. Anthony Tao, DDS, of Richmond Hill, Ont., completed two bridges consisting of four crowns each that were supported by six dental implants.

IDEAL CANDIDATE "Someone who is a non-smoker, with good oral hygiene and good overall health and motivated to improve their appearance. The candidate needs to have adequate bone and healthy gums in order to proceed. If these conditions are not met at time of consultation, then we would initiate an initial periodontal treatment and cleaning protocol until the patient's oral health attains a level that is acceptable to

commence complex surgical interventions. Once the patient is considered to be ready to proceed, treatment is coordinated with all practitioners involved on the case," explains Dr. Veisman.

COST This procedure cost \$28,000 for surgery and another \$12,000 for prosthetic rehabilitation for a total of \$40,000.

Typically, top surgeons will charge approximately \$2,500 in professional fees per implant for the surgery phase.

- Bone grafting procedures can cost between \$1,500 and \$5,000 each, depending on the complexity of the case.
- Gum lifts can typically range from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per sextant (there are three sextants per jaw for a total of six sextants in an entire mouth).
- Dental implant crowns range in fee from \$2,000 to \$3,000, depending on the experience of the dentist, the complexity of the case and the quality of the laboratory used. The more experience the dentist or specialist has and the higher the calibre of the lab, the higher the overall costs. One can also apply for financing (payment plans) through Dr. Veisman's office. Financing is granted on a case-by-case basis.

All of the treatments provided to Olga were diagnosed utilizing 3D CAT scan imaging, and most surgical procedures were performed with general anesthesia or conscious sedation to maximize her comfort throughout. "To achieve natural and long-lasting results, a great deal of thought has to be given to discussing treatment options with specialists. This type of surgery can

BEFORE



AFTER



have serious risks and complications associated with it, requires many skill sets and often necessitates the collaborative efforts of two or more practitioners in order to achieve predictable and successful aesthetic outcomes," explains Dr. Veisman.

Just remember, if you are considering such a complex treatment, be sure to get the advice and consult of experienced specialists and practitioners so you understand all options, indications, contraindications and possible treatment outcomes. 📞

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A *dentist* AND *periodontist*.

We want to help you understand and ensure you are seeing the right dental professional with our at-a-glance guide to periodontists and dentists.

	DENTIST	PERIODONTIST
EDUCATION & TRAINING	4 years of dental school	3 more years of post-graduate training after dental school, including dental anesthesia training
SPECIALTY	Provides dental services, such as fillings, root canals, crown and bridge, cosmetic veneers, dentures and dental cleanings	Primarily diagnoses and treats diseases, disorders and conditions of the supporting structures of the teeth, including the roots, gums and bone Treatments pertain to gum disease and dental implant tooth replacement
SYMPTOMS TO ADDRESS	Often refers patients to a periodontist for other procedures beyond their level of expertise Tooth pain, buildup of plaque, etc	Performs cosmetic procedures, such as gum lifts for individuals who are self-conscious about "gummy smiles" and replacing missing teeth with dental implants People who need periodontal services often experience premature tooth sensitivity, receding and bleeding gums, tooth mobility and tooth loss