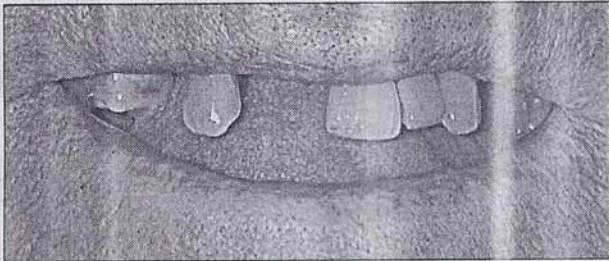
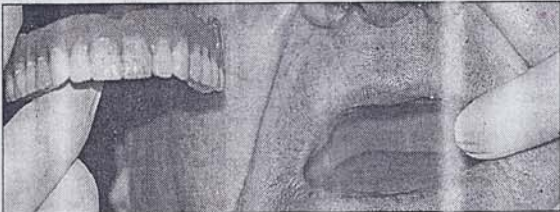


Same-day teeth

Swedish technology:
In by 7, out by 3



Jake Hunter, 80, shows the few upper teeth he had left.



Dr. Herman Kupeyan installs Hunter's upper dentures.

"I've got quite a mouth full of teeth. It's great."

BY VERONIQUE MANDAL
STAR HEALTH-SCIENCE REPORTER

A Windsor man has become one of the first people in the country to get "same-day teeth" — a revolutionary technology brought to Canada by Windsor prosthodontist Herman Kupeyan.

Jake Hunter, 80, had only five teeth in his mouth and an ill fitting lower denture which caused him pain for more than two years.

On a recent Wednesday, between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., this new Swedish technology made it possible for Hunter to walk out of Kupeyan's office with a full set of teeth. The upper teeth were on a denture but the lower teeth were all permanently fixed in his mouth.

"I'll socialize more once I have the teeth," said Hunter. "It was too difficult to eat out before."

Same-day teeth were pioneered in Sweden by Per-Ingvar Branemark, an orthopedic surgeon who discovered during his research that the element titanium and human tissue have the ability to integrate. The bone can actually grow into the titanium.

In 1965, Branemark developed a system of implants for replacing missing teeth. The man who received those first implants still wears them today.

Kupeyan says the problem with regular implants is that the procedure takes six months or more. The new system, called Novum, takes just one day.

"This is so exciting, especially for the patients. It gives them a new lease on life," said Kupeyan, who has given same-day teeth to two other patients.

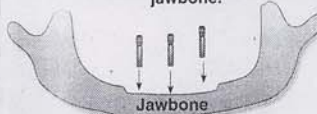
"My first patient was so thrilled to be able to eat again she came back the next day to show me her teeth and say thanks."

The surgery isn't for everyone, said Kupeyan, and people should consult their dentists for an evaluation. Only people with a U-shaped jaw can have same day teeth. It is not presently performed on people with a square or V-shape lower jaw.

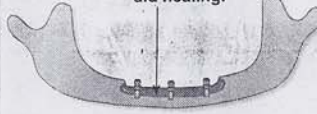
In Britain, where the procedure is taking off like wildfire, they've coined the term "teatime teeth" because the patient has replacements by tea time.

A PRE-FAB SMILE IN A DAY

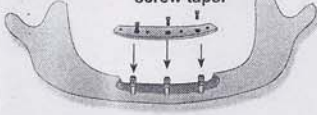
1 Up to 10 teeth can be replaced at once. The jawbone is cut to fit a foundation bar. Three titanium screw taps are drilled into the jawbone.



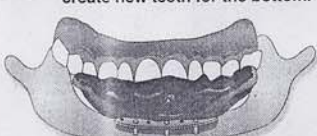
2 A temporary piece of silicone is placed on top of the site to aid healing.



3 The foundation bar is secured onto the previously mounted screw taps.



4 A mould of the area is made with the top teeth to accurately create new teeth for the bottom.



5 The new bottom teeth are made in the lab and the whole plate is screwed into the foundation bar.



Hunter loves his new set of teeth created by Dr. Herman Kupeyan.

Star photos: Nick Brancaccio

maining in his lower jaw, arrived at Kupeyan's office at 7 a.m. The surgical team, which includes assistants Jana Dame and Marilyn Wiens, make Hunter comfortable and spend about one hour on pre-op checks, making sure measurements they've taken are accurate and mapping out steps in the procedure.

Weeks before the surgery Kupeyan and his laboratory staff spent up to 10 hours on preliminary work — creating a blueprint for the procedure by making impressions and removing Hunter's five old teeth — which Kupeyan says is vital to a quality fit for the patient.

By 10:30 a.m. surgery to install the stabilization plate and three implants into his lower jaw was complete. A silicone mold was placed under the plate to speed healing and will be removed in about five days.

A second plate was installed to hold the teeth, which are kept in place by special screws.

Hunter's same-day teeth procedure frustrates 63-year-old Lee, who is having conventional implants installed.

"It's been two years and still months to go," said Lee. "I wish this process had been available to me."

Same-day teeth are only available for the lower jaw because the bone is harder. Bone in the upper jaw isn't as strong, but Dean Desrosiers, marketing manager for Nobelpharma, suppliers of the implant hardware, said it's only a matter of time before it's possible in the upper jaw.

"The research on this method is forging ahead."

At 2:30 p.m. Hunter was having his upper denture and lower permanent teeth installed. Nips and tucks were taken care of by lab staff on the premises, adding to the speed of the process. When everything was pronounced a success, Hunter broadly flashed his \$20,000 smile, saying it's well worth the money he's spent.

"I'm going home. I've been promised steak," said Hunter, flashing the broadest smile he has had since the end of the Second World War, which was when his dental troubles began.

"I've got quite a mouth full of teeth. It's great."

SOURCE: Nobel

STAR CHART: Susan Thomson-Starnoff

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