



# The Republican

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## New dental procedure leaves patient smiling

The operation was the first in the area to utilize the new technology and had only been done 70 times before.

By PATRICIA NORRIS  
pnorris@repub.com

SPRINGFIELD - Frederick Korenewsky didn't smile a lot. He didn't eat many foods unless they were soft or mushy. And his dentures left him gagging.

## Implant: Operation brought to WMass

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pain and swelling from standard implant procedures, because oral surgeons do not have to split the gum tissue and flap it open to place the implants.

With "Teeth in an Hour" doctors rely on a template made from a 3-D model of the patient's mouth created by computerized tomography, more popularly known as a CT scan.

The model allows the dentists to do a "virtual" surgery to plan how many and where the implants need to be placed, said Moini.

Then those measurements are sent to a lab where a surgical guide resembling a mouth guard is made and an exact prosthetic set of teeth made from acrylic and porcelain. The gum portion can also be made from pink porcelain or acrylic.

"Only 70 patients in the world have had this done," said Moini. "Seventy-one today."

Preparing Korenewsky's template took about four weeks, he said.

For Korenewsky, 62, the possibility of gleaming white teeth seemed almost too good to be true.

He had already endured a permanent bottom set of implants that took several hours and appointments, when Dr. Mariano told him technology had brought about something better - albeit more expensive. The procedure, not yet covered

promised something better.

Teeth in an hour.

Korenewsky, of Pelham, recently became the first patient in the area last month to undergo the cosmetic procedure that left him smiling with a full set of teeth and bite that pierced a crunchy apple just minutes after surgery.

The procedure, performed by Dr. Mohammed Moini and Dr. Vincent J. Mariano in Springfield was the first in the area to utilize the new implant technology developed by Nobel Biocare.

The operation offers a reduction in



Staff photo by MARLA PINSKY

From left, Dr. Mohammed Moini, Dr. Vincent Mariano and hygienist Linda Hill perform dental implant surgery on Frederick Korenewsky



Staff photo by MARLA PINSKY

Frederick Korenewsky of Pelham shows off his new smile after undergoing a new dental implant procedure in Springfield last month.

by insurance, costs about \$25,000.

"I knew I had to do something," said Korenewsky, adding he liked the surgery's quickness. The promise of less swelling and pain also sold him on the procedure.

"It is an investment," said Mariano, adding that plans like Delta Dental are considering some coverage for some implants now.

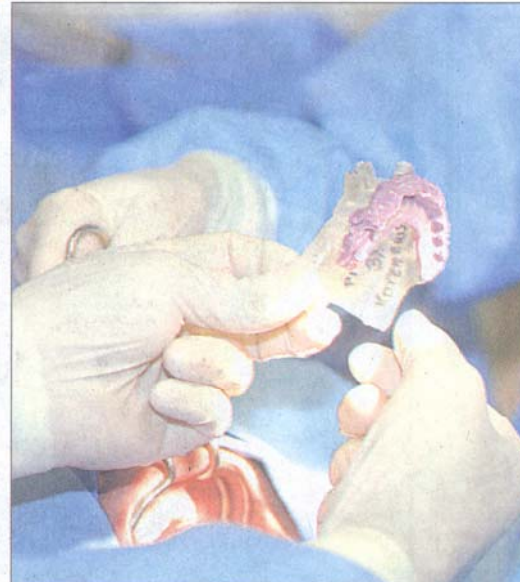
But the procedure that has only been around since 2003 is clearly life-changing, he said.

When Korenewsky first came to the dentist, the patient had only had a few teeth in his mouth.

"He could not chew," said Mariano.

About 31.5 million Americans are missing some or all of their teeth. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, toothlessness is an under-reported concern.

Korenewsky had lost his teeth slowly with some breaking or falling out over time - casualties of infrequent dental care in his younger days.



Staff photo by MARLA PINSKY

Dr. Mohammed Moini holds up the surgical template of Frederick Korenewsky's mouth, which was made from a 3-D model created by a CT scan.

On surgery day, the small hallways of Dr. Moini's office was filled with technicians, hygienists and one representative from Nobel Care preparing for Korenewsky. Moini and Mariano prepped Korenewsky in an opposite room with several Novocain injections that left his lips almost rubbery and unmotivated to smile.

"See me afterward," he said, almost managing a grin.

With the clock ticking, Moini, Mariano and staff got to work. A surgical drape was placed over Korenewsky's head exposing only his nose and mouth.

Moini fit the surgical guide and bored through specific places in the jaw bone for the implants. He stopped only to inject Korenewsky with more Novocain after hitting sensitive spots.

When six implants were in place, Mariano applied the prosthetic piece by lining up and screwing in the piece to the implant.

In just a few minutes past the hour, Korenewsky was out of the chair and flashing a bright smile.

His wife, Susan, brought her hands to her face in amazement. Mariano pulled an apple from his pocket.

"I can't remember the last time I saw him eat an apple," Susan Korenewsky said.

"Go ahead," Mariano said, offering up the shiny red fruit.

So the man with the new smile took a bite and checked himself out in the office mirror.

"It's a different reflection," said Moini. "You look 10 years younger."

Korenewsky just beamed.