



CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/JOHN JAQUES

Dr. George H. Beck shows a special tool that he recently invented to avoid drilling too deeply during tooth implant procedures.

# Idea with permanence

## Pueblo dentist wins patent for drill that puts implants in right

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THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Pueblo dentist Dr. George H. Beck attributes part of his inventiveness to working his way through college as a plumber's assistant.

"Implants are kind of analytical, mechanical. So implants probably are a natural progression," said Beck, who recently received a patent for developing a new kind of dental drill and teeth implant system.

Drawing on a legal pad, Beck showed that his three dental drills feature level points, rather than triangle-shaped peaks like other drills. With the new design, he can drill the desired width and depth into the jawbone without going too far and possibly damaging other areas, Beck said.

Beck said he began studying implants in 1970 while in

### ON THE NET: Dr. George H. Beck

<http://www.implantscolorado.com>

dental school. "It was always the thing I wanted to do. The more I knew about it, the more important I thought it was to do," he said.

Part of what pushed Beck to learn more about dental implants was his thinking that it's a better way to help people who have lost teeth as opposed to fitting them with removable partial teeth, dentures or permanent bridges. He said he thinks bridges, partials and dentures actually are harmful and simply are "not as good as implants."

He dismisses the cost of the implants as an obstacle. He maintains implants actually save money in the long run since they don't ruin adjacent teeth.

Using models of teeth sets,

Beck shows how permanent partial clamps lead to tartar buildup, decay and gum disease, and gradually more teeth loss.

Partials also loosen the adjoining teeth when they're removed.

The problem worsens as time goes on, said Beck.

"The longer the bridge, the more pressure there is on the remaining teeth," he said.

What many people also don't realize, Beck said, is a person's jawbone, gums and muscle are lost together with use of partials and dentures. Subsequently, a person's appearance changes.

"Once you get dentures, it makes you look 10 years older," he said.

Beck said he quit making partials about 25 years ago due to a personal experience.

"I made one (partial) for my father. I found out from my mother (that) the only

time he wore it is when he came in to get his teeth cleaned."

He said patients and friends over years told him their partials and dentures hurt and they couldn't eat what they wanted. Their problems have motivated him to keep studying implants.

Beck says his advanced training and research have taken him to the elite circles of implant technology. One association he's extremely proud of is his acceptance in The International Congress of Oral Implantologists.

He also commutes to Philadelphia where he teaches other dentists how to do implants at Temple University's Misch International Implant Institute.

Perhaps most importantly, he said three-decades-plus into his career he still finds his work extremely rewarding: "I've got a passion for it. I like what I do."