

Oklahoma Healthcare Profiles

# DENTAL IMPLANTS

## For One...For All... For Good

“Our patients can leave with a new set of implant-supported teeth in three to four hours. We work with exceptional referring dentists and prosthodontists to accomplish that, and our close communication with patients and their referring dentists is the key,” says Dr. James Baker.

At Oklahoma City Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons (OKC-OMS), Dr. Baker and Dr. Jacob Mendenhall provide excellence in care for patients needing dental implants, wisdom tooth extractions, and complex reconstructive jaw surgery.

Their expertise is such that patients do not perceive procedures as “major surgeries,” but as routine operations with

no surprises and only minimal discomfort. The knowledgeable, compassionate, and highly trained team works hard to make that happen.

### Why Implants?

Like the advanced orthognathic surgeries that draw patients from surrounding states to OKC-OMS, dental implants can transform lives.

Missing teeth can cause the jawbone to atrophy and diminish. Adjacent teeth can loosen or shift, reducing support for facial structure.

Replacing missing teeth with implants stops the resorption of the jawbone and halts the process of premature facial aging.

Implants look, feel, and function like natural teeth and



James A. Baker, DDS, and Jacob W. B. Mendenhall, DDS  
Board-certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

restore bite strength to near-normal levels. They can be used to replace a single tooth or several teeth without the “cutting down” of healthy teeth required by bridges. They can replace a full arch, or anchor loose partials or full dentures to improve bite strength.

OKC-OMS uses advanced digital scanning systems such as i-CAT® 3D cone beam imaging to provide the most precise guidance in treatment planning while reducing radiation exposure.

Modern materials and techniques allow Drs. Baker and Mendenhall to perform the full range of implant procedures—

from traditional placement that involves gradual bonding of the implants to the jawbone, to immediate-load implants, to specialized approaches for patients with unique needs.

“We place several hundred implants each year,” points out Dr. Baker, “so we’re prepared for even the most unusual challenges.”

### WHAT MAKES THE PRACTICE STAND OUT?

“We’re available. If you have a major life event to work around, we’re going to communicate with your referring dentist and get your problem repaired within your time frame. We had a patient referred in with a broken front tooth getting married the following week. Through excellent coordination with her dentist, we were able to get an implant in and an immediate temporary to get her through her big day!”

—Dr. James Baker

### ASK THE ORAL SURGEON

**Q:** Is it wise to remove wisdom teeth?

**A:** For most people, yes, and the sooner, the better, because it is easier to extract wisdom teeth during the teen years, before complications like infections, cysts, and tumors, or even more commonly, damage to the adjacent bone and teeth develop.

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Scan the tag to watch a video about dental implants.

#### South Office

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