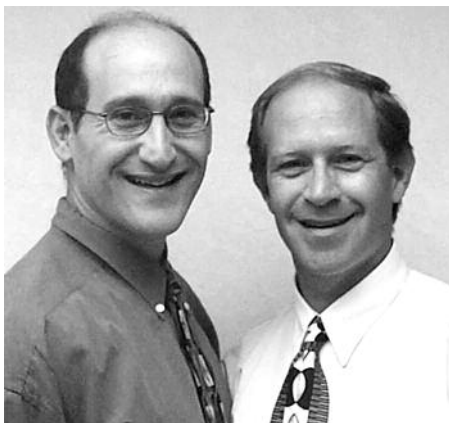


# Ask The Dentists

Dear Dr. Winter, I had dental Implants placed and now 7 weeks after full dentures were placed in my mouth, I cannot say a lot of words correctly. The dentist said my tongue grew larger since I was missing my bottom teeth for so long and said it would take a couple of months to get used to the dentures. It is embarrassing to speak, people know I have dentures. Have you heard of such a thing? Kate

**Answer:** Dear Kate, when people are missing teeth for a long period of time, tongue hypertrophy or enlargement can occur. The presence of a new set of dentures can require an acclimation period. So if your speech gradually returns to normal you will be very pleased. Often we suggest practicing speech for 10 minutes every morning and evening in front of a mirror to "practice" speaking clearly.

That being said, it is also possible the dentures are too bulky or the teeth are not in an ideal position. The dentist probably did a diagnostic wax-up or a trial denture before the implants were placed to evaluate and fine tune your esthetics, phonetics and give them a blue print for the final dentures. That is the protocol we follow prior to placing implants in our office. The axiom, "begin with the end in mind" from Steven Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People says it all. If we have well fitting dentures that are accepted for speech and cosmetics prior to treatment, we can match



*Drs. Richard and Bruce Winter*

that result in the final prosthesis. People that would like to come in for a second opinion or a denture or implant consultation should call our office at **414-464-9021** to schedule a complimentary consultation or a comprehensive examination. Please visit our website: **WWW.WINTERDENTAL.COM** for photos and videos of our dentistry as well as our Interest free financial options.

We wish you the best,  
Sincerely,  
Dr. Bruce Winter  
Dr. Richard Winter  
Master Academy of General Dentistry  
Fellow and Master (Implant Prosthetic  
Section)  
International Congress of Oral  
Implantologists