

## New methods in dentistry

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**July 9:** Dentists and maxillofacial surgeons learnt to use the cheekbone instead of the hip bone to anchor missing teeth and a gaseous mixture instead of an anaesthetic injection for simple procedures at a workshop.

The zygomatic surgery — the cheekbone is called zygoma — is used to give people with shaky or without teeth artificial teeth using titanium implants that are fixed to the cheekbone.

“The standard practice for such cases in India is to get some bone from the hip and fix it in the upper jaw. But zygomatic surgery uses longer implants that go right up to the cheekbone,” Gunaseelan Rajen, the medical director of Rajen Dental Hospital in Chennai, said.

Rajen conducted one of the two workshops at AMRI Dental, a part of the AMRI Hospitals, in the Mukundapur hospital over the weekend.

A patient with hip bone graft cannot chew hard food before 18 months. But in zygomatic surgery that was developed in Sweden around 2000, the soft diet is for six months,

Rajen said.

“The new teeth are fitted within three days in zygomatic surgery,” Rajen, former president of the Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons of India, said.

A software combines images of a CT scan and X-ray to provide the exact measurements for implants. It also gives the exact angle at which the implant has to be fixed.

Srinivas Namineni from Hyderabad conducted the other workshop on “Inhalation Conscious Sedation” at the hospital. It began on Friday and ended today.

In this form of sedation, a mixture of Nitrous oxide and Oxygen — the ratio can vary between patients — makes a patient “a little light-headed”.

“An anaesthetic needn’t be administered with a syringe for relatively simple procedures... this mixture puts so-called difficult patients at ease,” Namineni, a pioneer in the country in this field, said.

Once the gaseous mixture reaches the brain, it will slow down the pain realisation, Namineni said. The technique has been in use in the country for the past five years, he said.