

VICTORIA ADVOCATE

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Whoopi proclaims dental surgery changed her life

Did you see “The View” on ABC last week? One of its hosts, Whoopi Goldberg, proclaimed she had a “life changing experience!” You would think for Whoopi to have an eye-opening experience, it would have to be exceptional, profound and extraordinary. But can you believe it was dental surgery that changed her life? That’s right.



You can listen to what she said about it at www.drmaclee.com, but here is a portion of what she told her co-hosts:

“Whenever you get an infection in your face it alters the way you look, people look at you strangely. I looked like I got beat up and when I found out all the minutia going on in my mouth, and I’m embarrassed to say this

people, I have great dental insurance and I did nothing with it. For years and years I let my mouth go and I am paying the price. I am losing teeth because I am losing bone and I brought this on myself and I could have prevented it. Your mouth is connected to your entire system, including your immune system. If you do not take care of your mouth you are not taking care of your entire body and it will kill you. I don’t know whether you guys saw this but about a week ago they linked your mouth health to heart health.”

Quite profound, isn’t it? Here is a highly successful, wealthy, educated woman testifying to the seriousness of dental health. Ms. Goldberg’s situation is

proof that dental disease strikes without regard to religion, gender, race, intelligence or socioeconomic standing. She is one of only thirteen people to have won an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar and a Tony Award. She is street smart and more than likely has a substantial income and yet she is going to lose some if not all of her teeth.

Dentists are seeing stories like Whoopie’s way too often. People tend to take care of the things they understand, things like business, family and other personal goals. Unknowns make them uncomfortable and for far too many people, the mouth, teeth and gums remain a mystery.

Too many people don’t know how to take care of their mouth and even more don’t understand how important dental health is to their overall health. So the result

is that many people, like Whoopi, just avoid it. They wait until the pain or discomfort gets unbearable before they go to the dentist.

What Whoopi had to say is true: the infection in her face was able to move all over her body. Although recent studies are just now discovering the ways in which dental health can affect overall health, it is apparent that infections in your mouth can cause damage to the rest of the body. If bacteria and pus are being pumped into the blood stream via the mouth, it will cause adverse affects on other systems of your body. That’s just common sense.

Whoopi is also right when she says that dentistry is not the same as it was in the 1950s. Advances in technology, including sedation dentistry, where dentists use a sedative to relax

the patient to be pain free and unaware of the treatment. There are also computerized injection systems for painless shots and digital x-rays.

Much has been done to make your experience in the dentist’s chair as painless and comfortable as possible.

Beyond that, dentists are now better trained to listen to the patient and consider your overall health before suggesting or starting any course of treatment. In addition, with today’s advancements in technology the ability to restore a mouth back to its healthy state are incredible.

Don’t let yourself or your loved ones be in the same position that Whoopi is in. If you, or someone you know has a dental problem, please don’t wait. Pick up the phone and call your dentist.