

1 **Salvador Gaytan:** Welcome to SmileTalk, an entertaining and informative dental talk
2 show featuring the latest news and developments in dentistry. I'm
3 Salvador Gaytan and I'm here with...
4
5 **Dr. John Chao:** Dr. John Chao. Hi, everybody.
6
7 **Salvador Gaytan:** Dr. John, the friendly dentist. Okay, Dr. John, normally we do our
8 Rapid Fire Five, but of course, we are going to continue because
9 our last show was very interesting, kind of about your background
10 and how you got here on the boat.
11
12 We have more, we're going to contrast some of the differences that
13 -- in the way dentistry was done, from when you first opened to
14 today. So, now, getting back, we left off, you were in Monterey
15 Park, in your first building. How long were you in that first
16 building? Do you remember?
17
18 **Dr. John Chao:** I was in that building -- I was in there about 11 years.
19
20 **Salvador Gaytan:** 11 years in that building there.
21
22 **Dr. John Chao:** I still miss that building.
23
24 **Salvador Gaytan:** You still miss that building?
25
26 **Dr. John Chao:** Yeah, that was nice.
27
28 **Salvador Gaytan:** Did you ever own that building or you just rented it the whole
29 time?
30
31 **Dr. John Chao:** Eventually, I owned it. I bought it from Dr. Gregory, and I loved
32 the little building. Often times I said, "Why did I get anything any
33 bigger than that? That was all I needed." It was a really, really nice
34 and comfortable and...
35
36 **Salvador Gaytan:** Simple.
37
38 **Dr. John Chao:** Simple, and it was great, I kind of look back on those days with
39 very fond memories.
40
41 **Salvador Gaytan:** Well, dentistry was much more simple at that time, wasn't it?
42
43 **Dr. John Chao:** It was demanding, challenging, but compared to today, it is
44 simpler, it is simpler.
45

46 **Salvador Gaytan:** And so, at your peak, how many staff did you have in that little
47 building, at your peak?
48

49 **Dr. John Chao:** Not that many. I always had a front desk, and I always had two
50 chair side assistants. So, the most we had in that little building,
51 which was about what, 750 square feet, it was three staff and one
52 doctor.
53

54 **Salvador Gaytan:** Three staff and one doctor.
55

56 **Dr. John Chao:** At one time, I had another doctor who joined me, but it was a busy
57 little practice, but he had a lot of fun. We enjoyed our patients in a
58 very different way. We still enjoy our patients, of course, but it
59 was a little bit different.
60

61 **Salvador Gaytan:** Now, so how many chairs did you have in that little office?
62

63 **Dr. John Chao:** I had three chairs.
64

65 **Salvador Gaytan:** So, a contrast when you're a little more into this, but you had three
66 chairs in your original office versus today in your big office, how
67 many chairs do you have?
68

69 **Dr. John Chao:** Well, actually I have 12 chairs now. It's not one doctor chasing
70 around in 12 chairs. I always have to hasten to explain them. I have
71 12 chairs, because I started -- when I planned the office, I wanted
72 to have a group practice. I wanted other doctors to be there and
73 work together and kind of enjoy each other's company and learn
74 from each other.
75

76 I did that for a while and I really enjoyed it. But as time goes on, I
77 realized that I had one great weakness, I do not know how to
78 manage doctors. I can manage staff, I can manage my patients, I
79 can do what I need to do, but managing doctors was not my strong
80 suit.
81

82 **Salvador Gaytan:** Because you're demanding on how you like things done, precise.
83

84 **Dr. John Chao:** Not really, they're great doctors and they're very precise, but just
85 doing the management part was not my forte. So, I decided to scale
86 back and then now we just use the rooms differently. Each room is
87 specialized for a certain procedure.
88

89 **Salvador Gaytan:** Okay, now.
90

91 **Dr. John Chao:** So, I use all the chairs that way. But it was only one doctor, one
92 patient at the time.
93
94 **Salvador Gaytan:** Now, we're going to get a little bit more into that.
95
96 **Dr. John Chao:** Okay.
97
98 **Salvador Gaytan:** But let's go back to...
99
100 **Dr. John Chao:** Yeah, okay.
101
102 **Salvador Gaytan:** It's one of the contrasts. You had three chairs originally, now
103 you're up to 12, but wasn't there another middle step from that
104 small office? Didn't you go to another office, first?
105
106 **Dr. John Chao:** Yeah, there was another medium sized office, it had six chairs.
107
108 **Salvador Gaytan:** And what city was that in?
109
110 **Dr. John Chao:** That was in Alhambra.
111
112 **Salvador Gaytan:** Alhambra. Well, have all your offices been in Alhambra?
113
114 **Dr. John Chao:** Well the first one was in Monterey Park.
115
116 **Salvador Gaytan:** Monterey Park.
117
118 **Dr. John Chao:** Alhambra is just North of Monterey Park, so I moved to a slightly
119 larger office in Alhambra, and there I worked with Dr. Neilson,
120 just a wonderful, wonderful doctor and then from there, we moved
121 to my present location.
122
123 **Salvador Gaytan:** Okay. So, in your medium office, how many chairs did you have at
124 that point?
125
126 **Dr. John Chao:** There were six.
127
128 **Salvador Gaytan:** Six chairs? Okay.
129
130 **Dr. John Chao:** Six chairs and two doctors, it was a good size.
131
132 **Salvador Gaytan:** And how many staff?
133
134 **Dr. John Chao:** We probably doubled our staff by that time.
135

136 **Salvador Gaytan:** So, was it an easy move to make? Did you say, “Hey, I have more
137 patients and I can’t handle them in my smaller office, I need more
138 space” Was that the situation?
139

140 **Dr. John Chao:** Something like that, yeah. It was a little bit too small, I wanted
141 something bigger, and now I realize that had I stayed there, it
142 would have been just as good.
143

144 **Salvador Gaytan:** You like that small cozy office?
145

146 **Dr. John Chao:** Less headaches, less overhead and it was nice.
147

148 **Salvador Gaytan:** But a small office wouldn’t be able to house all your modern
149 machinery, would it?
150

151 **Dr. John Chao:** It would have been a challenge, but I would have had to build
152 something, make something bigger over there.
153

154 **Salvador Gaytan:** So, then how long were you in that medium office?
155

156 **Dr. John Chao:** About four years.
157

158 **Salvador Gaytan:** Four years. So, your practice really grew quickly once you got to
159 the medium office, to the point that you wanted the bigger office.
160 So, you went out and you looked for buildings to buy or rent or...?
161

162 **Dr. John Chao:** We were looking for a building nearby and this one came up, the
163 one that I have now. It was a law office, it was much bigger, so we
164 decided to remodel the whole thing. So, it took a year.
165

166 **Salvador Gaytan:** So, you bought the office?
167

168 **Dr. John Chao:** Yeah. We bought this present location.
169

170 **Salvador Gaytan:** So, you own the building that you’re in right now?
171

172 **Dr. John Chao:** Yes, yes.
173

174 **Salvador Gaytan:** So, you bought that building and how big is that? It’s pretty big
175 building, I know.
176

177 **Dr. John Chao:** It’s big enough for 12 {oppertories}.
178

179 **Salvador Gaytan:** Yeah, for [crosstalk], well of course you have a big front area, a
180 lobby, some upstairs things. It’s quite an operation, of course, I’ve
181 seen it, because I’m a patient there.

182
183 **Dr. John Chao:** Yeah.
184
185 **Salvador Gaytan:** So, it took you a year to actually furnish and get ready for
186 business?
187
188 **Dr. John Chao:** Yeah, it was at the time when interest rate was 18%. So, now the
189 contractors that I work with, really weren't that busy. So, one
190 contractor came after another, it was done in only 12 months.
191 Generally, this kind of rebuilding project takes two, three years.
192
193 **Salvador Gaytan:** Really?
194
195 **Dr. John Chao:** Yeah. So, we were very lucky. We paid high interest rate for the
196 construction loan, but the thing got done really quick and fast, and
197 it was done really well.
198
199 **Salvador Gaytan:** I see.
200
201 **Dr. John Chao:** I really liked it.
202
203 **Salvador Gaytan:** Okay. So, you moved into your new building, which is the building
204 you're in today. I call it your luxury building. I mean, it's quite an
205 operation.
206
207 **Dr. John Chao:** Well, quite an operation in the sense that I get to do it in the way
208 that I like, one patient at a time, efficiently with each room
209 specialized for that particular procedure. In other words, I have
210 room where I do root canals and everything is there. In one room, I
211 would do surgery and that room is totally stocked with all the stuff
212 I need. So, it's really efficient and easy to work with.
213
214 **Salvador Gaytan:** So, let's back up for a second, because that's interesting. This is
215 something I actually, even being a patient and being in your office,
216 I really did not know this. You actually have -- you have 12 chairs
217 and 12 rooms, and you actually have a room that's just for root
218 canals?
219
220 **Dr. John Chao:** Yes.
221
222 **Salvador Gaytan:** Because, see most people think...
223
224 **Dr. John Chao:** Actually, I got two.
225
226 **Salvador Gaytan:** You have two. Okay. So, you have two for root canals, okay,
227 because most people would probably think that, "Well, a doctor,

228 he's got some drills and some needles and some picks and this and
229 that. What's the difference?" So, what is the difference? What are
230 the things that you use for a root canal, that you have to have in
231 that room?
232
233 **Dr. John Chao:** Well, there are a lot of root canal equipments, such as, let's say, we
234 need a special machine to determine how long the root is. So, we
235 have to have it there. We have basically what a specialist would
236 have, for let's say, root canals, all the equipment has to be there, so
237 you don't have to move things around.
238
239 If somebody needs a root canal, we just basically take the patient
240 there, and we are ready to work. We don't have to look for things.
241 So, it makes it easier, makes everything more accessible.
242
243 So, whether it's root canals, periodontal or gum surgery, whether
244 it's dental hygiene, the hygienists have their own rooms. So, it
245 makes more easy, efficient operation. It gives me a lot more time
246 then to be personal with each one of my patients and not have to
247 worry about organization or trying to set things up and making the
248 patient wait. Patients hardly ever wait when they get to my office.
249
250 **Salvador Gaytan:** I think patients like that. Patients do not like to wait, right?
251
252 **Dr. John Chao:** No, nobody likes to wait, especially in the dental office. They're
253 nervous enough already.
254
255 **Salvador Gaytan:** Now, I don't know if this is the way it is in all dental offices,
256 because I know when I go to the doctor's office, a lot of times,
257 there's three or four people there and it's not uncommon to wait a
258 half hour, 45 minutes, but I know whenever I've been in your
259 office, I'm in, in two minutes. I noticed that the people who are
260 sitting there, they're in within two minutes. So, it does work that
261 way at your office.
262
263 **Dr. John Chao:** Well, most of the time, especially when you come around, and
264 nobody wants to make Sal wait.
265
266 **Salvador Gaytan:** Nobody wants to make me wait, are you saying I'm a
267 temperamental patient?
268
269 **Dr. John Chao:** No.
270
271 **Salvador Gaytan:** Is that what you're saying? I am not.
272

273 **Dr. John Chao:** You make your issues well known. No, we enjoy being personal
274 with the patients and respect their time. So, we are very fortunate
275 to have very good patients that stick with us for years and years
276 and years. So, we're very lucky in those ways.
277

278 **Salvador Gaytan:** That's excellent. I want to get to that. Anyone just tuning, you're
279 listening to SmileTalk. I'm Salvador here, with Dr. John Chao, the
280 friendly dentist and you can reach Dr. John at
281 AlhambraDental.com and submit any questions and take a look at
282 the website or you can call 626-308-9104. Now, Dr. John, getting
283 back to your patients, do you have any demanding patients?
284

285 **Dr. John Chao:** Of course. I expect them to be demanding, and I like patients who
286 expect a high level of service and there's always a challenge.
287

288 **Salvador Gaytan:** Now, here is a contrast. We're going to contrast some of the
289 differences between dentistry when you started versus now, and
290 you were saying that the expectations of patients when you first
291 started were actually a little lower. Is that true?
292

293 **Dr. John Chao:** Not really. I think it's less complicated in those days. We didn't
294 have cosmetic dentistry at the time, so you don't deal as much with
295 the nitty-gritty's of what looks really, really aesthetic or cosmetic,
296 and not in the sense that we deal with today, there is a lot more.
297

298 In those days, we did dentures, we did gold fillings and then we
299 did silver fillings. Of course we did root canals and gums surgery
300 and so on, so we really have two materials that we work with.
301

302 Now, it's challenging and it is gratifying to be able to do a
303 wonderful silver filling and do it just really, really well and polish
304 it up, so it looks almost like gold. Or to do gold inlays and gold
305 onlays and gold crowns and hide the gold, so it's almost invisible,
306 and you have to have the tooth covered with gold.
307

308 So, there were a lot of technical challenges at that time, but you
309 had less restorative materials to work with, at that time. So, you do
310 a filling, it's done.
311

312 **Salvador Gaytan:** What materials do you have today that you didn't have back then?
313

314 **Dr. John Chao:** Well, a good question. For instance, we have veneers today,
315 porcelain shells that cover teeth. Those are very challenging to do
316 and very gratifying to be able to take somebody's teeth and just
317 change the smile. So, it's more of a challenge when you do things
318 like that.

319
320 So, there are different demands as gum procedures have changed a
321 lot. There's a lot more we can do nowadays to save people's teeth.
322 We do implants now, a technology that was not at all available at
323 that time.
324
325 So, there are many, many different things that we learned to do
326 these days, that we didn't do at that time. So, in many ways it was
327 different.
328
329 **Salvador Gaytan:** Now, you told me a funny little story, I've got to get to this. One
330 thing that is very different is back then you had a low speed drill
331 versus the newer modern drills. Now, tell us about the low speed
332 drill.
333
334 **Dr. John Chao:** Well, when I was at USC, they were just changing the drills from
335 the belt driven engines to the air driven drills. Those days I had
336 long hair, and I was so concentrated on working on the tooth that
337 the belt of the belt engine caught my long hair and it got all twisted
338 up and my hair was stuck on the pulley.
339
340 **Salvador Gaytan:** Stuck in the pulley?
341
342 **Dr. John Chao:** So, I stopped the engine and pulled my hair out of there.
343
344 **Salvador Gaytan:** So, did you cut your hair then or did you just say, "No, I'm not
345 going to get close to that drill next time"?
346
347 **Dr. John Chao:** Well, I wasn't going to cut my hair on account of the drill, sure.
348 But, things were different. It took forever to actually cut the tooth
349 or do a crown. I remember it took at least 45 minutes to trim down
350 the tooth just to be able to take impressions for a crown. So, things
351 were a lot slower then.
352
353 **Salvador Gaytan:** So, it took 45 minutes then, how long does it take today?
354
355 **Dr. John Chao:** At the most, five minutes.
356
357 **Salvador Gaytan:** Five minutes. That's a lot.
358
359 **Dr. John Chao:** That's long already. The lighting was not as good. We have much
360 more powerful lighting now. So, it was a challenge to be able to
361 see in those days.
362
363 **Salvador Gaytan:** Did you wear any magnification glasses at the time?
364

365 **Dr. John Chao:** No, that didn't come along until much later. So, at that time, the
366 standing joke was that to be a fine dentist, it's like being a fine
367 Swiss watchmaker, and this Swiss watchmaker will be trying to
368 repair a wonderful watch in the dark while somebody is spitting on
369 his hands.
370

371 **Salvador Gaytan:** Absolutely.
372

373 **Dr. John Chao:** So, that was the challenge of that time, because you were kind of
374 working in the dark and it's kind of wet in there, and the drills
375 were slow, you can hardly see, so that little joke was a [crosstalk]
376 for those times.
377

378 **Salvador Gaytan:** And now it's completely different with the modern lighting and...
379

380 **Dr. John Chao:** Yeah, I think in those days we were more challenged and we had
381 to develop a special set of skills to do dentistry under those
382 difficult circumstances.
383

384 So, my generation of dentists graduated from that time, takes a lot
385 of pride in the way that we were trained. We take a lot of pride in
386 doing things just to perfection if we can, near perfection if we can
387 possibly do it. So, that was the attitude at that time, even though
388 we had less materials, but we really concentrated on doing things
389 well.
390

391 We were very proud of that, and USC has always been the leader
392 in that kind of dentistry, even today. Today we're still, in my
393 opinion, USC Dental School is better than USC football team,
394 because USC Dental School is number one, and our football team
395 right now is only number four.
396

397 **Salvador Gaytan:** Number four. That's a big challenge.
398

399 **Dr. John Chao:** Well, hopefully, next year, the football team will catch up with the
400 dental school.
401

402 **Salvador Gaytan:** I like it, I like it. Now, Dr. John, Dr. John, you actually went to
403 China in the -- was it late 70s or so?
404

405 **Dr. John Chao:** In the early 70s, there was a group of dentists from California, with
406 a couple of physicians, we were invited kind of unofficially to visit
407 China and look at dentistry in China at that time. It was...
408

409 **Salvador Gaytan:** Now, that was kind of rare. There weren't a lot of Americans going
410 to China at that point in history.

411
412 **Dr. John Chao:** No, very few at the time. We had to even check with the state
413 department to ask them whether it was safe to go there, and it was
414 only when they were okay that we went. It was a fabulous
415 experience.
416
417 **Salvador Gaytan:** So, a group of dentists. How many dentists?
418
419 **Dr. John Chao:** About 12 of us.
420
421 **Salvador Gaytan:** 12 of you, okay. Were you all Chinese?
422
423 **Dr. John Chao:** Yes, all Chinese Americans who were invited on that trip.
424
425 **Salvador Gaytan:** So, what did you do on that trip?
426
427 **Dr. John Chao:** Well, we did a whole lot of things that has nothing to do with
428 dentistry.
429
430 **Salvador Gaytan:** So, you did a lot of sightseeing?
431
432 **Dr. John Chao:** We did sightseeing, and it was a tremendous trip, but as far as
433 dentistry goes, we saw dentistry done under some very, very
434 interesting circumstances.
435
436 **Salvador Gaytan:** How would you highlight those circumstances versus with the way
437 you were doing it here in the United States in the 70s?
438
439 **Dr. John Chao:** Well, the biggest contrast that really, really, impressed us, two
440 things. Everything that was done, almost everything that was done,
441 was done with acupuncture, there were no Novocain injections. So,
442 we saw some fabulous dentistry being done, even operations on the
443 neck being done only with acupuncture.
444
445 **Salvador Gaytan:** So, acupuncture was the way they relieved pain?
446
447 **Dr. John Chao:** Exactly, and I saw one operation where there were some tumors
448 being removed from the neck, and the guy's throat was open, there
449 was no bleeding and he was talking and this surgeon was working
450 on his neck.
451
452 **Salvador Gaytan:** Wow.
453
454 **Dr. John Chao:** So, it was quite an experience, and we were very impressed with
455 acupuncture, and I even learned how to do it for dentistry from my
456 trip over there. Now, the second thing that really impressed me at

457 that time was that dentists in China were able to do a lot more
458 surgery. They did plastic surgery, they did surgeries of the neck,
459 they did all the trauma surgery, they treated people with burnt
460 faces.
461
462 I saw one case where they took skin and used that as a blood vessel
463 and transported blood from the arm to the face to try to treat face
464 being scarred by burning, by fire and see this little piece of skin
465 coming from the wrist to the face.
466
467 **Salvador Gaytan:** Wow.
468
469 **Dr. John Chao:** And that actually worked.
470
471 **Salvador Gaytan:** So, that dentist...
472
473 **Dr. John Chao:** Dentists were doing all that.
474
475 **Salvador Gaytan:** So, dentists were kind of jack of all trades.
476
477 **Dr. John Chao:** They did everything, because there was hardly anybody else to do
478 it. So, they were the head and neck surgeons, they did everything. I
479 was very impressed with that.
480
481 **Salvador Gaytan:** So, that gave you ideas when you came back to the States, say,
482 "Hey, I'm going to do the whole enchilada."
483
484 **Dr. John Chao:** No, I wasn't even tempted, but I was very impressed with
485 acupuncture and when I got back, I did for a time with certain
486 patients used acupuncture.
487
488 **Salvador Gaytan:** Really?
489
490 **Dr. John Chao:** It worked pretty well. I wasn't that good, so it didn't work as well
491 as probably it should have, but I had fun doing it and some patients
492 liked it and some patients hated it. Nobody wanted to see little
493 needles on their hands, on their face and sticking all over the place,
494 but I learned that and I knew that was very, very effective. I have a
495 lot of respect for acupuncture.
496
497 **Salvador Gaytan:** Absolutely. But you don't do it today, though.
498
499 **Dr. John Chao:** No, no, I haven't done it for years and years. I guess I could. I
500 could still do it today.
501

502 **Salvador Gaytan:** Now, you also mentioned the vacuums, because when you're
503 doing any procedure on someone's mouth, you have to vacuum up
504 saliva and things, debris in there. You mentioned that the vacuums
505 were much noisier when you started.
506

507 **Dr. John Chao:** Well, the vacuums are noisy, but the drills were noisier.
508

509 **Salvador Gaytan:** Noisier?
510

511 **Dr. John Chao:** They called this thing -- they called our drill Quiet Air. It was
512 nothing -- if it was anything, it was not quiet. It was loud, it was
513 shrill and...
514

515 **Salvador Gaytan:** That's why...
516

517 **Dr. John Chao:** A lot of dentists can't hear. They can't hear well after a while.
518

519 **Salvador Gaytan:** Well, so that's why the people...
520

521 **Dr. John Chao:** That's our excuse anyway, we've become hard at hearing when we
522 don't want to hear things. It's the drill.
523

524 **Salvador Gaytan:** The drills were so noisy, but see people that were born in the 60s
525 or 70s, we have memories of those loud drills.
526

527 **Dr. John Chao:** That's right. If you grew up in that area, it was not easy. It was not
528 easy to sit down for dentistry, it took a long time.
529

530 **Salvador Gaytan:** I mean I remember as a kid, I could hear that drill in the waiting
531 room. Now, you're hoping that I was not going to be a part of that
532 drill.
533

534 **Dr. John Chao:** In a lot of people's minds, it's still running.
535

536 **Salvador Gaytan:** Exactly. So, you are saying that some dentists actually did lose
537 some hearing from the noise of that drill over the years?
538

539 **Dr. John Chao:** Definitely, definitely. Especially the high noises, ordinarily the
540 ordinary noise levels are not affected, but I've heard people
541 complain about that. The other thing that they complained about
542 was standup dentistry.
543

544 Now, almost all dentistry is done with the dentist sitting in the
545 chair. But in the 50s, 60s and 70s, a lot of dentistry was done
546 standing up. So, a lot of dentists had to quit early, retire early,

547 because they have back problems and neck problems and all kinds
548 of problems.
549
550 **Salvador Gaytan:** So the dentists spent six hours or seven hours a day standing over a
551 patient, performing procedures, that's pretty tough.
552
553 **Dr. John Chao:** That's pretty tough, yeah. That's why they had to play golf
554 Wednesday afternoons.
555
556 **Salvador Gaytan:** There you go.
557
558 **Dr. John Chao:** That was standard at the time. Except for me, everybody else was
559 playing golf on Wednesday afternoons. That's why they sent me
560 the patients, because they didn't have -- they didn't want to do any
561 work on those days.
562
563 **Salvador Gaytan:** And you were...
564
565 **Dr. John Chao:** So, I was open, so I got all the patients who wanted to come on
566 Wednesday afternoons.
567
568 **Salvador Gaytan:** Now, you said earlier you actually were working weekends in the
569 beginning?
570
571 **Dr. John Chao:** Oh, yeah, I love dentistry. I was working late, two nights a week, I
572 was working five days a week and I was working Saturday
573 mornings. I couldn't get enough of it. I loved it. I still do.
574
575 **Salvador Gaytan:** So, you never had a thought when you first opened your office, the
576 first year, just thinking, "You know what? What did I get myself
577 into? I don't want to deal with these people for a lifetime" You
578 never had that thought?
579
580 **Dr. John Chao:** I loved it as I still do. I never, for a moment in my life, ever
581 regretted being a dentist. I look forward everyday going there and
582 doing dentistry and meet my patients.
583
584 **Salvador Gaytan:** Figuring out new...
585
586 **Dr. John Chao:** Meet new patients and do new things and learn new things, it's a
587 fabulous profession for the right person.
588
589 **Salvador Gaytan:** Now, another difference that you've mentioned was titanium. You
590 didn't have titanium implants.
591
592 **Dr. John Chao:** No implants at that time.

593

594 *Salvador Gaytan:* No implants.

595

596 *Dr. John Chao:* No implants.

597

598 *Salvador Gaytan:* So, what happened -- what would happen if someone lost some
599 teeth and they need a replacement, what could you do for them
600 back then?

601

602 *Dr. John Chao:* Dentures.

603

604 *Salvador Gaytan:* That was their only option?

605

606 *Dr. John Chao:* That's right. We tried to save the teeth. We did all kinds of heroic
607 things that would save teeth, that are pretty bummed out, we used
608 those teeth to anchor dentures and so on. We did a lot with the
609 teeth that we had.

610

611 There were experimentations being done at USC Dental School.
612 There were implants such as -- one kind that I remember was
613 called subperiosteal implants. It's like a partial denture. It's like a
614 metal framework, like a partial denture framework. It goes under
615 the gum, but sits on top of the bone.

616

617 *Salvador Gaytan:* Wow.

618

619 *Dr. John Chao:* I remember this doctor who was experimenting with it, his name is
620 Dr. Erlichman, and he was just great. Some of those worked really
621 well, but some of them didn't work. It wasn't until the 80s when
622 Dr. {Branemark}, a German doctor, a German physician actually
623 invented titanium implants, and that has become the standard today
624 for implants.

625

626 But it's amazing, I think today -- I'm glad you brought it up --
627 today there's almost too much use of implants. From my point of
628 view, there should be more consideration to saving the teeth that
629 you have and replace them with implants when you absolutely
630 have to.

631

632 That's what I believe, it's my personal preference, but of course,
633 that's neither right nor wrong. A lot of dentists want to -- if there's
634 any question as to the longevity of the tooth, and rightly they could
635 recommend an alternative to removing the tooth or putting
636 implants in.

637

638 But my preference, personally, is for saving the tooth, do whatever
639 you can with it and even use those roots that you can save as
640 natural implants, rather than take them out and put permanent
641 implants, titanium implants, but that's my personal preference.

642
643 I think in the future we're going to see more of a balance, not as
644 many implants, and we're more using natural teeth, save what you
645 can and use implants if you cannot use it -- if you cannot use
646 natural teeth.

647
648 **Salvador Gaytan:** Absolutely. Well, we're coming to the end of this show. It's been
649 two fascinating shows, back to back, Dr. John. I have to say I've
650 learned a lot of things myself, the contrast between the dentistry
651 and some of the things of how you got started.

652
653 It's not easy to start a dental practice, especially these days.
654 Fantastic. Well, we're coming to the conclusion of our show. You
655 can reach Dr. John at AlhambraDental.com or 626-308-9104. I
656 guess that's a wrap, Dr. John.

657
658 **Dr. John Chao:** Bye everybody.

659
660 [END OF AUDIO]