

Dental Implants

A dental implant is an artificial tooth root that is placed into your jaw to hold a replacement tooth or bridge. Dental implants are an ideal option for people in good general oral health who have lost a tooth or teeth due to periodontal disease, an injury, or some other reason.

While high-tech in nature, dental implants are actually more tooth-saving than traditional bridgework, since implants do not rely on neighboring teeth for support.

What Dental Implants Can Do?

- Replace one or more teeth without affecting bordering teeth.
- Support a bridge and eliminate the need for a removable partial denture.
- Provide support for a denture, making it more secure and comfortable.



Before dental implant



After dental implant

Advantages of Dental Implants Over Dentures or a Bridge

Every way you look at it, dental implants are a better solution to the problem of missing teeth.

- **Esthetic** Dental implants look and feel like your own teeth! Since dental implants integrate into the structure of your bone, they prevent the bone loss and gum recession that often accompany bridgework and dentures. No one will ever know that you have a replacement tooth.
- **Tooth-saving** Dental implants don't sacrifice the quality of your adjacent teeth like a bridge does because neighboring teeth are not altered to support the implant. More of your own teeth are left untouched, a significant long-term benefit to your oral health!
- **Confidence** Dental implants will allow you to once again speak and eat with comfort and confidence! They are secure and offer freedom from the irksome clicks and wobbles of dentures. They'll allow you to say goodbye to worries about misplaced dentures and messy pastes and glues.
- **Reliable** The success rate of dental implants is highly predictable. They are considered an excellent option for tooth replacement.

What Is Treatment Like?

This procedure is a team effort between you and your dentist. Your dentist will consult with you to determine where and how your implant should be placed. Depending on your specific condition and the type of implant chosen, your dentist will create a treatment plan tailored to meet your needs.

- **Replacing a Single Tooth** If you are missing a single tooth, one implant and a crown can replace it. A dental implant replaces both the lost natural tooth and its root.
- **Replacing Several Teeth** If you are missing several teeth, implant-supported bridges can replace them. Dental implants will replace both your lost natural teeth and some of the roots.
- **Replacing All of Your Teeth** If you are missing all of your teeth, an implant-supported full bridge or full denture can replace them. Dental implants will replace both your lost natural teeth and some of the roots.
- **Sinus Augmentation** A key to implant success is the quantity and quality of the bone where the implant is to be placed. The upper back jaw has traditionally been one of the most difficult areas to successfully place dental implants due to insufficient bone quantity and quality and the close proximity to the sinus. Sinus augmentation can help correct this problem by raising the sinus floor and developing bone for the placement of dental implants.
- **Ridge Modification** Deformities in the upper or lower jaw can leave you with inadequate bone in which to place dental implants. To correct the problem, the gum is lifted away from the ridge to expose the bony defect. The defect is then filled with bone or bone substitute to build up the ridge. Ridge modification has been shown to greatly improve appearance and increase your chances for successful implants that can last for years to come.



Example of a missing single front tooth. The patient did not want to use the adjacent teeth to hold a bridge, or to have a removable denture. He chose to have a single implant to support a crown.



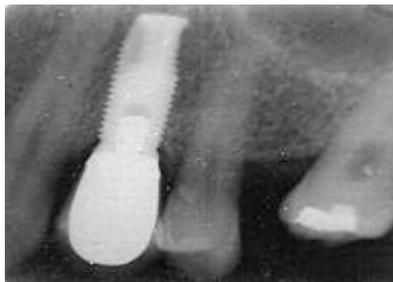
Radiograph showing the placed implant and the crown over it.



Appearance of the crown in the mouth.



Example of a missing single back tooth. The patient did not want to use the adjacent teeth to hold a bridge, or to have a removable denture. He chose to have one implant to support a crown.



Radiograph showing the placed implant and the crown over it.



Appearance of the crown in the mouth.

If there are several missing teeth a number of options usually exist for restoring the area.



Example of several missing side teeth. The patient did not want to use the adjacent teeth to hold a bridge, or to have a removable denture. He chose to have two implants to support a bridge.



Radiograph showing the placed implants and the bridge over them.



Appearance of the bridge in the mouth.



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