

## frequently asked questions

### Is the implant procedure painful, during and/or after?

The procedure is usually done under local anesthesia, most often in your dentist's office. The discomfort you may feel afterwards should be minor. Your dentist may prescribe medication to alleviate any pain you may have.

### How long does the implant procedure take?

Depending on the location and the number of implants they may be placed in as little as 30-60 minutes.

### How long does placement, healing and construction of the replacement teeth take?

The entire process usually takes from 3 to 9 months, depending on your treatment plan. This gives the bone time to heal and attach to the implants.

### What can I eat after having an implant placed?

Your dentist will outline a diet for the first few days including some soft foods.

### How do I care for my implants?

Home care for your implants consists of brushing and flossing. Regular dental visits are required for long-term health and success.

## frequently asked questions

### How long can implants last?

Implants can last many years if cared for properly. Many implants have been in place for more than 40 years.

### Do I need to get my implants checked by my dentist on a regular basis?

You will need to visit your dentist at least twice a year to have your implants, gum and jaws checked. Actual frequency of maintenance visits is largely dependent on your individual circumstance. The implants and crowns are cleaned with special instruments and x-rays are usually taken annually to assess bone health and implant stability.

### If an implant fails to osseointegrate, what happens?

The implant is removed and the site is allowed to heal. Another implant can often be placed after healing if there is adequate bone.

### I already have bone loss from periodontal disease. Can I still have implants?

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons are trained and experienced in grafting bone to safely and permanently secure the implant.

### Are dental implants covered by insurance?

Many insurance companies have realized dental implants are the best solution for replacing missing teeth. If your insurance company does not cover implants directly, they may cover part of the procedure. You should check with your insurer.

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## dental implants the permanent solution for tooth loss

Dental implants are one of the best ways to replace missing teeth. They function just like natural teeth, but best of all, they look and feel like your own teeth.

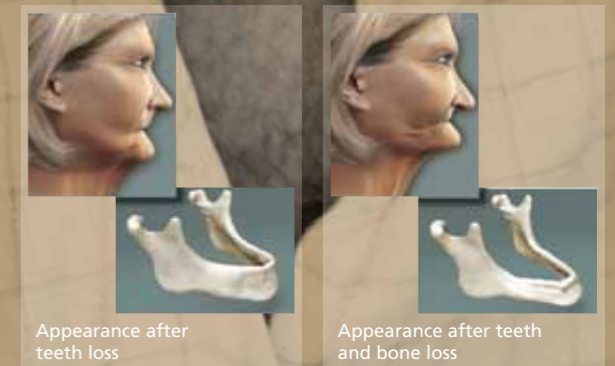
*Eating, smiling, laughing ...  
enjoying yourself with your  
friends without pain or  
self-consciousness ... dental  
implants can be the perfect,  
permanent solution.*



If you are self-conscious about missing teeth or wearing dentures, there is an alternative that may be right for you: dental implants.

Dental implants are the restorative solution that most closely resemble your natural teeth. They look and feel natural, and best of all, they function just like your own teeth. Dental implants enable you to eat and speak without pain or discomfort because they improve your chewing and speaking proficiency.

Most importantly, dental implants prevent bone loss. The presence of natural teeth preserves the jawbone; when a tooth is missing the bone beneath it will begin to shrink (atrophy). And since your facial bone supports the skin and muscles on top of it, losing teeth and supporting bone volume can cause your face to look prematurely aged, making you look older than you really are.



Appearance after  
teeth loss

Appearance after teeth  
and bone loss



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The good news is that dental implants offer a solution to stop bone loss.

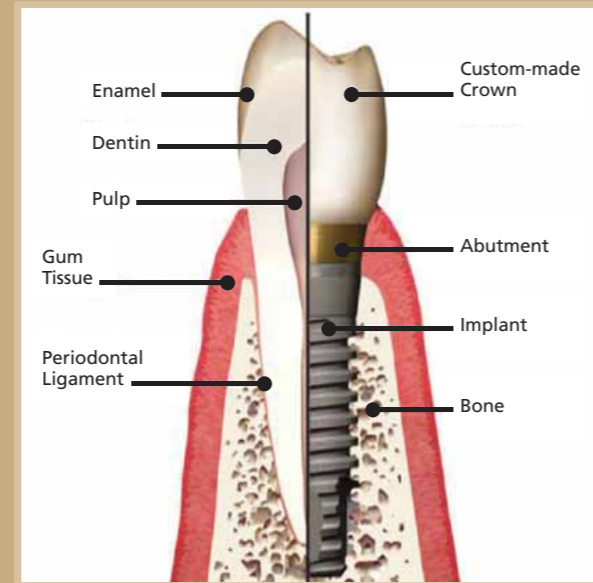


When a missing tooth is replaced by a dental implant, the fusion, or osseointegration, of the implant and bone provides stability, just as the natural tooth did.

A disadvantage of the crown & bridge solution to missing teeth is that two or more healthy teeth need to be ground down to serve as abutments (anchors) for a bridge, leaving them at a much greater risk for cavities and root canal treatment.

With implants, however, healthy teeth are not compromised. And because the dental implants transmit chewing forces to the jaw, just like your natural teeth, the jaw is stimulated and bone loss is halted. This is why many leading dental organizations recognize dental implants as the standard of care for tooth replacement.

Dental implants have the highest success rate of any implanted surgical device.



Today's dental implants are virtually indistinguishable from other teeth. This appearance is aided in part by the structural and functional connection between the dental implant and the living bone. Modern dental implants are made from titanium and have been used extensively since the 1970s. Titanium alloy offers the benefit of being lightweight and strong, and is easily accepted by the body (bio-friendly). Most dental implants are titanium screws that are placed into the jaw bone in a relatively pain-free procedure.



The implant serves as an anchor for a custom-made tooth crown that will be attached to it. Once the crown is in place, you often cannot distinguish it from your natural teeth.

Implants can be used to replace one or several teeth. The procedure involves three basic steps:



1 The surgical placement of the implant(s) in the bone below the gum tissue. Healing caps flush with the gum surface may be placed during the bone integration period.



2 About 3 to 6 months later the final abutment is fitted to the implant.



3 Usually two to four weeks later a custom made crown is attached to the abutment.

If all your upper or lower teeth are missing, multiple implants may be used to support a denture that can be removed by you for cleaning.

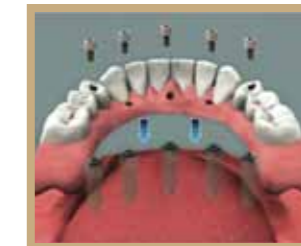
The implants are placed similarly to the single and multi-tooth situations. Your existing denture can be modified so that it may be worn without disturbing the implants during the healing process.

You will be fitted for a custom-made bar that attaches to the implants to support the new denture.



The new denture will have attachments which snap or clip it into place. Your new teeth are firmly supported by the implants, stimulating the jaw and halting bone loss. This denture is removable by you for easy cleaning.

Multiple implants may also be used to provide support for a permanent bridge. If all your upper or lower teeth are missing a permanent bridge can be attached directly to the implants. The number of implants is determined by the specific requirements of each case.



You will be fitted for a custom bridge that screws directly into the implants. The screw holes will be covered after insertion.

Just like the removable denture, your new teeth are firmly supported by the implants, stimulating the jaw and halting bone loss. Your dentist will be able to remove the prosthesis when necessary for cleaning and maintenance.

#### ARE YOU A CANDIDATE FOR DENTAL IMPLANTS?

With the exception of growing children, dental implants are the solution of choice for people of all ages, even those with the following health concerns:

**Existing Medical Condition.** If you can have routine dental treatment, you can generally have an implant placed, even people with such chronic diseases as high blood pressure and diabetes.

**Gum Disease or Problem Teeth.** Almost all implants placed in patients who have lost their teeth to periodontal disease or decay have been successful.

**Currently Wearing Partial or Full Dentures.** Implants can replace removable bridges or dentures, or they can be used to stabilize and secure the denture making it much more comfortable.

**Smokers.** Although smoking lowers the success rate of implants, it doesn't eliminate the possibility of getting them. New studies are showing nearly the same success rate whether you are a smoker or not.