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## **“What Are Dental Implants And How Are They Used To Replace Missing Teeth With Crowns?”**

There are many reasons for teeth loss. Among them are decay, periodontal (gum and bone), trauma, and congenital. Failure to replace missing teeth can lead to shifting, drifting and greater wear teeth of other teeth, bite changes, chewing difficulty, etc.

Thankfully, dental implants offer some of the in modern dentistry. They can often provide teeth. They have a very good prognosis and the rest of their lives.



finest restorative results possible a permanent solution for missing for many patients they will last

Constructed of titanium, implants are shaped painlessly placed into the jawbone.

like screws and are easily and



Once placed they will actually attach to the bone of the jaw through a process called osteointegration. (Osseo meaning bone from the Greek and Latin.)

After the implant is placed an abutment is fastened into it.



A crown is then cemented onto the abutment.

Sometimes we may screw the crown and abutment together into the implant. These crowns are called “implant supported crowns”.

When teeth are lost, the most comfortable treatment for you is a non-removable solution. In the non-implant fixed bridge procedure, teeth adjacent to the missing tooth or teeth are prepared for crowns. The missing section is attached to them and the finished case is cemented.

With implants the adjacent teeth do **not** have to be touched, and you will have a fixed not removable solution. A single implant will replace one missing tooth. If more than one tooth is missing it is not always necessary to place an implant for each missing tooth.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Are implants always successful?**

Modern implant techniques have been in use since the 1965 when Professor Per-Ingvar Brånemark placed the first titanium implant in Sweden. Improvements in procedures and materials have given implants a very high success rate which is now over 95%. Implants are an accepted treatment by the American Dental Association.

### **Is everyone a candidate for implant treatment?**

In general, anyone healthy enough to undergo routine tooth extraction or oral surgery is able to receive an implant. There are some health conditions that warrant special consideration. Age is only a factor for teenagers. If there is insufficient bone, there are techniques to graft additional bone.

### **Will others know I have dental implants?**

Today's implant treatment enables you to have your new teeth look, feel and function like your own. Even though others will be unaware you have dental implants, many patients are so pleased they tell everyone they know. Dental implants offer some of the finest restorative results possible in modern dentistry.

### **How long does complete treatment take?**

Depending on the type of implant and replacement teeth selected, the total time can be as little as a few weeks to several months. Sometimes if a tooth has to be extracted, the implant can be placed at the same time. If adding bone for the implant is necessary, further time may be needed.

### **Is there pain or discomfort?**

Many patients report implant surgery less troublesome than having teeth removed. With modern anesthesia and close attention to post operative care you can expect minimal discomfort.

### **Will I need to be hospitalized?**

The vast majority of implant procedures are performed in the dental office with local anesthesia. Hospitalization or use of a Surgi Center may be necessary for very complex surgical procedures or general health reasons.

### **For my front teeth will I be without replacement teeth at any time?**

Usually you will have temporary teeth on the same day the implant is placed. At most it may take a day or so for the temporary teeth to be made.

### **How much does implant treatment cost?**

The cost of implant treatment depends upon the number of implants placed and the type of replacement teeth needed. More complex treatment, such as bone grafting, will add to the cost.

Implants are cost effective when taking into account the functioning life of the implant. The improvement in your self confidence, comfort, eating habits and appearance will make dental implant treatment one of the best investments you've ever made!

### **Are implant supported teeth as strong as my natural teeth?**

Yes. Research shows that in many cases implants are actually have a stronger attachment to bone than natural teeth. Dental implants can never decay but you still have to clean them to keep the gums healthy.

## **Some Final Thoughts**

- Implants will give you the look, feel, and function of your natural teeth.
- Implants will enhance your appearance and self-confidence; no need to worry about smiling or speaking in public because of missing teeth.
- Implants will promote better health...natural biting and chewing. with them.
- Implants, as I mentioned before are cost effective and many patients feel they are one of the best investments for their dental well being they ever made.

## **Case Examples:**

On the next page are pictures of three different patients who had implant therapy.

- The first is of a young girl missing two upper teeth.
- The second is of a middle aged woman with four lower teeth missing. The middle photo here illustrates the two abutments which screw into the implants..
- The last is of a senior citizen who had seven implants placed. Count them on the X-ray.



Young girl two missing teeth.



She is so happy now.



Two implants beneath the gum.



Two abutments into the implants.



Four missing teeth replaced with two implants.



Seven implants.



Now he can chew with permanent teeth.