

What are the Benefits of Dental Implants?

Dental implants are the next best thing to natural teeth. The benefits of dental implants include:

- **Improved appearance**
- **Improved speech**
- **Increased chewing ability**
- **Prevention of further bone loss**
- **Restriction of tooth movement**
- **Self-confidence boost**

What are the Risks of the Surgery?

Dental implant surgery, like any other surgery, can have associated health risks. These problems are rare and usually easily treated. Risks of dental implant surgery include:

- **Infection of the implant site**
- **Damage to surrounding areas**
- **Nerve damage**
- **Sinus problems**
- **Failure of implant integration**
- **Bone loss**

Who is at a Higher Risk for Tooth Loss?

Paraplegics may have trouble maintaining oral hygiene as result of manual impairment and the dependence on others for oral hygiene. Poor dental care can lead to tooth decay and gum disease. These problems can eventually lead to tooth loss. In order to maintain healthy teeth, paraplegics (with the help of a caretaker if necessary) must:

- **Brush at least twice every day**
- **Floss at least once every day**
- **Receive 3-4 annual cleanings**

Do Paraplegics have Less Accessibility to Dental Care?

Recent surveys show that paraplegics may have reduced access to dental care. Physical barriers can prevent the access of paraplegics to dental facilities. It is important that paraplegic patients visit accessible facilities with ramps or elevators. Dental fear is another significant reason for the lack of dental care to paraplegics. To reduce fear, they must also find dentists who they are comfortable around.

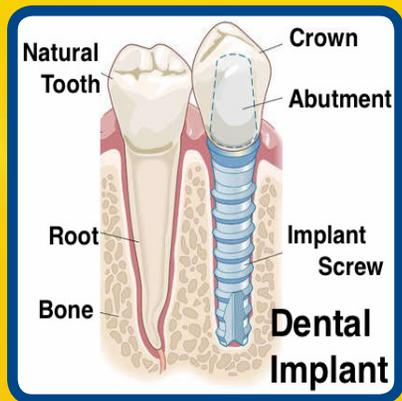
YOUR GUIDE TO Dental Implants



Answers to frequently asked questions regarding dental implants.

What are Dental Implants?

Tooth loss is a very common problem; therefore, the use of dental implants is a common practice. Dental implants are surgically fixed substitutes for roots of missing teeth. They act as anchors for replacement teeth, such as crowns, bridges, or full denture sets. If you have a missing tooth or multiple missing teeth, then you might want to talk to your general dentist about receiving dental implant treatment.



The diagram above shows a comparison of natural tooth structure compared to a dental implant. The titanium implant screw can be seen as imitating the root of the tooth, while the replacement crown imitates the structure of the surface of the natural tooth. The abutment is the connecting piece between the crown and the implant screw.

What is the Overall Process?

The surgical procedure is a three-stage process that takes about 3-6 months:

Stage 1: The first stage consists of an oral surgeon burying the implant underneath the gum tissue in the bone structure. Anesthetic is used so the patient is comfortable. The implant will become integrated into the gum and bone tissue after a healing period.



Stage 1

Stage 2: At the second stage, the surgeon checks for successful integration. A post, called an abutment, is placed in the implant and penetrates through the gum tissue into the mouth. The gum tissue will then heal around the abutment.

Stage 3: The final stage consists of connecting prosthetic teeth to the implant/abutment complex. Your general dentist can do this.



Stage 2



Stage 3

Am I Viable for Dental Implants?

Patients must have healthy gum tissue and enough bone structure to support a dental implant. Patients with chronic diseases, heavy smoking habits, or alcohol abuse may not be considered as candidates. There are no age restrictions for getting dental implant treatment. Your dentist will determine if the treatment is suitable for you after a physical exam and review of your medical history.

What is the Cost of a Dental Implant?

Dental implants can last a lifetime, but they can be quite expensive. The overall cost varies with your situation.

Full Denture Set: \$5,000 - \$10,000+ **Crown Bridge:** \$3,500 - \$25,000



Single Crown: \$1,000 - \$3,000