

Dental Implants

What is a dental implant?

A dental implant is a small titanium threaded screw called a “fixture” that serves as the replacement for the root portion of one or more missing natural teeth. The Implant can be placed in the upper or lower jaw. An implant will bond (osseointegrate) with the bone over time and serve as an anchor for the replacement tooth.



What is the procedure?

Traditionally the procedure has been performed in two steps. The dentist began by installing the implant, which was then left for three to six months to heal and integrate with the bone. During this time, the patient was provided with a temporary prosthesis to wear.

Today there is an alternative two-step method. It allows you to have the implant installed in one whole piece in one single session. This method has simplified the procedure a lot, both for patients and dentists.

The method chosen will depend on several factors including the patient's dental health, the number of teeth involved and which teeth are to be replaced.

Will dental implants work for me?

Anyone who is missing one or more teeth due to injury, gum disease or decay may be a candidate for dental implants. The main limitation is the amount of available bone.

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*Photographs are not library images, they are genuine case photographs undertaken in the practice

Your dentist is the best person to evaluate whether dental implants are a viable solution for you.

Occasionally older patients express concern that their age may prevent them from having dental implants. Health is more a determining factor than age. Many implants are provided for older patients.

What are the benefits of implants over traditional other treatments to replace missing teeth?

Improved appearance: When you lose an entire tooth, shrinkage of the jawbone may cause your face to look older. Dental implants can stop this process.

Maintained natural teeth: With traditional bridges, two teeth adjacent to a missing tooth must be ground down to anchor a bridge. Dental implants can eliminate the need to modify healthy teeth.

A permanent solution: There are no loose dentures to worry about. The implant does not need to come in and out. The implant is stable and comfortable. Adjustment is rarely needed after installation. Normally, it will serve its owner for life. Implant supported teeth look, feel and function very like natural teeth. This means you can eat and drink whatever you like.