

Dental Implants

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Although the technology is new, dental implants were used thousands of years ago by the early Egyptians. Mummies unearthed by archeologists show evidence of this. Today, people worldwide are using this technology

that is better and more aesthetically pleasing than conventional dentures or bridges. If you have one or more missing teeth, which is true in over 50 million Americans, dental implants can help you just as it has helped millions of people worldwide.

How your dentist performs your surgery will depend on the type of implant you are receiving and what condition your jawbones are in. The procedure is performed in stages and is recommended if you want great looking teeth or have trouble eating and talking with your current dentures or missing teeth. They are based on the technique developed by Swedish orthopedist Dr. Per-Ingvar Branemark more than 40 years ago. Branemark's technique, which is called Osseointegration, is the basis of most modern implants. It involves implanting artificial teeth with use of tiny posts or abutments attached to the jawbone. This method can be used to replace an entire set of teeth or as few as one missing molar or front tooth. Compared to dentures or bridges, dental implants won't irritate your gums and there is no need to destroy healthy adjacent teeth to attach them. Long-term retrospective studies have shown that 30% of dental bridges fail in 10 years, 50% within 15 years, leaving fewer options when they fail. The numbers are even worse if any of the teeth in the bridge have had previous root canal treatment or end up needing it. **DENTAL BRIDGES ARE NO LONGER THE RECOMMENDED SOLUTION TO REPLACE MISSING TEETH.** Another very important point is that dental implants help pre-

vent the erosion of the jawbone which normally follows the loss of teeth. Because the face is the only place in our body where bone volume loss occurs, this is very important in a health aspect as well as cosmetically.

The Procedure

A dental implant procedure is not a one visit process, typically taking several visits to one or more dental experts. As with any medical procedure, the first step is to find a qualified, skillful, and trustworthy dentist to perform your dental implant procedure.

First, the dentist will take x-rays of your mouth and perform a thorough oral examination. Then, typically, he will administer a local anesthetic to ease any discomfort during the operation. A channel for the implant is gently created to allow for the placement of the implant. After which, the implant is placed into position. The implant is left for an average of 3-4 months to fuse into the jawbone. Once it has successfully attached to the bone, an extension is placed on to the implant. This acts as the support for the synthetic replacement (crown) or replacements (multiple crowns or dentures). Depending on your condition, dental implant restorations may be removable or permanently fixed to your implants like real teeth so they won't slip or fall out.

Are You a Good Candidate?

In general, the procedure can be done in anyone who has a tooth extracted. Thus, if you are in good health and have one or more missing teeth, you're probably a good candidate for dental implants. While your dentist will be able to tell you whether or not you are a good candidate for dental implants, some of the basic criteria are:

- You're missing one or more teeth
- You have reached full maturity to ensure that your jawbone has stopped growing
- The bone structure of your jaw is good enough to support the implants
- You do not have gum disease or unhealthy oral tissue
- You don't have any illnesses or specific

health conditions which could affect healing after the surgery

- You fully understand the procedure

ARE DENTAL IMPLANTS SAFE?

The procedure is LESS involved than having a tooth pulled, and has a very high success rate. Dental implants are made of titanium which is compatible with natural bone. The whole process can take a few short appointments over a few months and is very predictable. The general consensus of opinion is that implants carry a success rate of around 95%.

Main Benefits of Dental Implants

- 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.
- Helps to maintain the shape of the face
- Helps to preserve the bone in the jaws and prevent further volume loss
- Removes the need to grind down healthy teeth for a bridge
- Can eliminate the pain of ill-fitting partials and dentures
- It is the closest thing to the replacement of natural teeth
- Look, Feels and functions like a natural tooth
- Offers superior esthetics in comparison to dentures, partial dentures and bridges
- Improve your ability to chew
- Implants can be more cost effective than other options in the long term
- Allows you to taste more food than if you were to wear a denture
- they are easy to clean unlike a bridge
- cannot be affected by dental decay at all

Anesthesia

Sedation Dentistry can be an important part of any dental procedure because many patients suffer from feelings of anxiety, when they undergo dental procedures. Your dentist can offer you sedation options to help you feel more comfortable and relaxed during your procedure. Dental implants can be done simply with local anesthetic or with any of the following levels of sedation : Nitrous Oxide, Oral or "pill" Sedation, Intravenous or IV Conscious Sedation, or even General Anesthesia.

Post-Surgery

It is not uncommon to experience some mild discomfort after your dental implant surgery. Some symptoms following your procedure may include:

- Minor bleeding
- Pain at the implant site
- Mild gum and skin bruising
- Mild swelling of the face and gums.....or no symptoms at all !

These symptoms are minor and temporary and are generally very tolerable for most patients. In the event that your symptoms are difficult for you, your dentist may be able to prescribe pain medication and antibiotics until your symptoms subside.

Dental implants can help people attain a smile that they can be proud of. Many people are self-conscious about their smiles because of missing teeth. This can dramatically affect your self-confidence as well as your overall health. Perhaps you have difficulty chewing, or you are missing one or more teeth and would like to smile, speak and eat again with comfort and confidence. Dental implants have proven to be a great choice for improving a person's quality of life. They are a solution that well trained dentists can provide. Implants look and feel like your own teeth. Under proper conditions, implants can possibly last a lifetime. You'll be comfortable and more confident. The best part is you'll be able to smile naturally again !

Warmest Regards,
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Dr. Botbol has trained at the World-Renowned Misch International Implant Institute in Beverly Hills, Michigan



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