

# Dental Implants

*You know that your confidence about your teeth affects how you feel about yourself, both personally and professionally.*

*Perhaps you hide your smile because of spaces from missing teeth. Maybe your dentures don't feel secure. Perhaps you have difficulty chewing.*

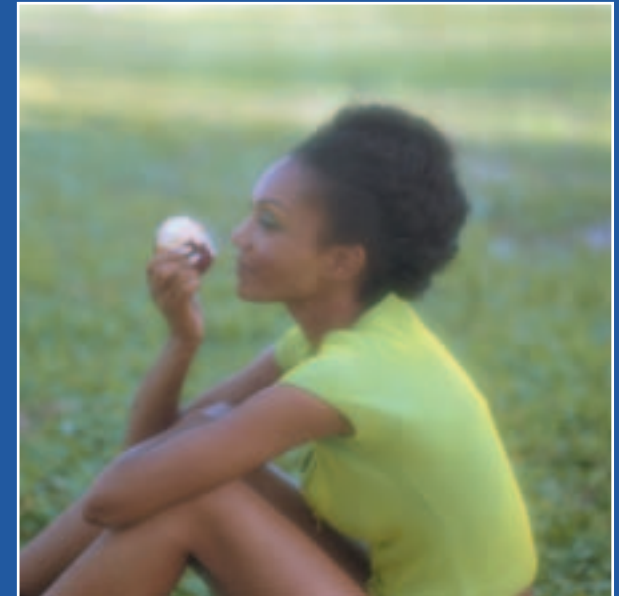
*If you are missing one or more teeth and would like to smile, speak and eat again with comfort and confidence, there is good news! Dental implants are teeth that can look and feel just like your own!*



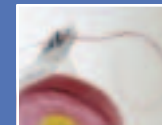
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Teeth that look and feel just like your own!



*What are dental implants and what can they do for me?*

**A** dental implant is an artificial tooth root placed into your jaw to hold a replacement tooth or bridge in place. While high-tech in nature, dental implants are actually more tooth-saving than traditional bridgework, since implants do not rely on neighboring teeth for support.

Dental implants are so natural-looking and feeling, you may forget you ever lost a tooth.

**E**very way you look at it, dental implants are a better solution to the problem of missing teeth.

**Esthetic** Dental implants look and feel like your own teeth. Since dental implants integrate into the structure of your bone, they prevent the bone loss and gum recession that often accompany bridgework and dentures. No one will ever know that you have a replacement tooth.

**Tooth-saving** Dental implants don't sacrifice the quality of your adjacent teeth like a bridge does because neighboring teeth are not altered to support the implant. More of your own teeth are left untouched, a significant long-term benefit to your oral health!

**Confidence** Dental implants will allow you to once again speak and eat with comfort and confidence. They are secure and offer freedom from the irksome clicks and wobbles of dentures. They'll allow you to say goodbye to worries about misplaced dentures and messy pastes and glues.

**Reliable** The success rate of dental implants is highly predictable. They are considered an excellent option for tooth replacement.

**T**he ideal candidate for a dental implant is in good general and oral health. Adequate bone in your jaw is needed to support the implant, and the best candidates have healthy gum tissues that are free of periodontal disease.

*Advantages of dental implants over dentures or bridges*

*Am I a candidate for dental implants?*

*What is treatment like?*

*What can I expect after treatment?*

*Are you ready to venture beyond conventional dentures and bridges?*

Dental implants are intimately connected with the gum tissues and underlying bone in the mouth. Since periodontists are the dental experts who specialize in precisely these areas, they are ideal members of your dental implant team. Not only do periodontists have experience working with other dental professionals, they also have the special knowledge, training and facilities that you need to have teeth that look and feel just like your own.

Your dentist and periodontist will work together to make your dreams come true.

**T**his procedure is a team effort between you, your dentist and your periodontist. Your periodontist and dentist will consult with you to determine where and how your implant should be placed. Depending on your specific condition and the type of implant chosen, your periodontist will create a treatment plan tailored to meet your needs.

It will be important for you to work as a team with your periodontist and dentist to reach your treatment goals.

**A**s you know, your own teeth require conscientious at-home oral care and regular dental visits. Dental implants are like your own teeth and will require the same care. In order to keep your implant clean and plaque-free, brushing and flossing still apply!

After treatment, your periodontist will work closely with you and your dentist to develop the best care plan for you. Periodic follow-up visits will be scheduled to monitor your implant, teeth and gums to make sure they are healthy.

**J**ot down your questions about dental implants before your next visit to your periodontist. He or she can answer your questions and provide a personal evaluation.



**Look at the beautiful results of a dental implant!**



**A behind-the-scenes look at a single-tooth implant.**

*Top Photo Credit:  
Bobby Butler, DDS  
Timothy Butson, DDS, MSD*

*Bottom Photo Credit:  
Bobby Butler, DDS  
Christopher Suzuki, DDS*