



Dental Implants Help Those with Tooth Loss Regain Quality of Life

DESPITE IMPROVEMENTS in dental care, millions of Americans suffer from tooth loss – mostly due to tooth decay, gingivitis (gum disease), or injury. For many years, the only treatment options available were bridges and dentures. Today, however, dental implants are available.

What is a Dental Implant?

A dental implant is a popular option for tooth restoration and considered a reconstructive dentistry service. It is an artificial tooth root surgically implanted into the upper or lower jawbone. The implant is made of titanium, which will fuse with the jawbone, providing stability. After the implant has been placed, it serves as the base for the crown, bridge or dentures.

Anyone missing teeth is a candidate for dental implants. Dental implants can accomplish the replacement of a single tooth, multiple teeth, or an entire dental arch. They can increase chewing comfort by providing retentive anchors for full or partial dentures and eliminate the use of denture adhesives. When used as the base for implant-supported dentures, this method helps prevent bone loss, preserves facial appearance, and provides solid protection against the slipping and chattering of regular dentures. Implant supported dentures eliminate the pain experienced from ill-fitting dentures and the need for adhesives. They prevent the embarrassment

due to ill-fitted dentures falling out while speaking or eating. Implant-supported dentures can help restore a patient's ability to bite and chew naturally, improve speech and improve overall self-confidence.

Technology has advanced to the point where dental implants are commonly used to improve not only one's physical wellbeing, but also the quality of life.

The dentist utilizes implant teeth that look, feel and function in a manner that allows the patient to forget they have dental implants. Others will not know you have implants unless you tell them.

The entire dental implant process, from evaluation to completion, generally occurs over six to eight months. During this time, most patients experience little, if any, disruption in their normal business and social activities.

Dental implants have opened the door to the future in dentistry and oral rehabilitation. Patients who have had to compromise their appearance, chewing functionality, and nutritional intake due to complete or partial loss of teeth, can now be restored back to normal appearance and function. Many patients rediscover the excitement of an active lifestyle shared with family and friends through a renewed confidence to eat, speak, laugh and enjoy life. ■