

Dental Implants

Dental implants are becoming more popular in today's dental society for a number of reasons. Implants are utilized to offer patients a foundation for new restorative teeth where natural teeth are missing or have been extracted. The implant offers the patient the opportunity to regain normal function of the tooth without being forced to resort to a bridge or a denture.

Benefits

- The implant will osseointegrate (bond) with the existing bone.
- The new implant will support your teeth firmly and safely.
- Your new implants are aesthetically pleasing.
- You will no longer have pain during talking or eating.
- The dental implant will prevent progressive bone atrophy.
- Implants have a proven scientific basis.

Procedure

The tooth structure has two main sections, the root and the crown. The root is the section of the tooth that is below the gumline. A dental implant acts as the restorative for this section of the tooth. The metal implant acts as an anchor in the jawbone. The first step of the procedure is surgical placement of the implant. Under regular dental anesthetic, the gum tissue is opened and the dentist places the implant into the jawbone. When this is achieved, the tissue is then sutured closed. There is not often significant discomfort with this procedure. This process can take from 1-3 hours depending on the number of implants being placed.

This implant will be left untreated for a period of 3-6 months. During this time, the bone will grow around the implant in a process called osseointegration. A removable crown may be utilized during this time period to allow for chewing and to preserve the cosmetic appearance..

The next step in the process is to attach an abutment to the tooth. This is achieved by exposing the top of the implant and placing the

abutment. This is the part of the implant that will support the final crown.

Finally, an impression is taken of the implant and a final restoration is crafted. This restoration will be comfortable and cosmetically pleasing. Your completed implant will be fully functional, allowing you to resume normal activities.

Are Implants Right for You?

Bridges and dentures are not the only options when replacing missing teeth. Dental implants offer the look and feel of natural teeth. Implants offer more stability because they fuse to your bone. Additionally, they integrate into your jaw allowing replacement teeth to feel more natural, secure and comfortable.

So who qualifies? Dental implants are an ideal option for all people in good general oral health who have lost one or more teeth due to any range of tragedy from periodontal disease to injury.

The First Step

The first step is to make an appointment for a routine evaluation. Our dentist will look at the health of your gums and periodontal situation and see if your gums will hold the implant. This will be done with X-Rays and possibly a CT scan

Summary

Implants are the latest dental technology for replacing the roots of lost teeth. They offer stability, comfort and a sense of freedom that bridges and dentures could never achieve.