

Dental Implants

If you have missing teeth, dental implants can be a great alternative to partial dentures or bridges. With dental implants, you get a permanent solution to tooth loss without concerns about slippage, gum irritation, and special cleaning.



What are dental implants?

Dental implants are replacement teeth that are fixed in your jaw with an artificial root that functions like a natural root. They are not removable like dentures and don't require any kind of special care. In fact, they function like your natural teeth in every way, so there is no disruption to your speech or diet. With practicing good oral hygiene habits, dental implants can last indefinitely without any maintenance, unlike dentures, which may require fit adjustments.

Who is a good candidate for dental implants?

Dental implants are safe for most patients and can be used to replace one missing tooth or an entire mouth of lost teeth. We will determine if your gums and bone are healthy enough for implants. If they are not, you may require additional treatment, such as periodontal care or bone grafts, before you get your dental implant.

What happens during the dental implant process?

Step 1: *Extraction*

If tooth is not already missing, you will need an extraction. Once a tooth is extracted there is a healing time of 3-4 months before we can move forward with the implant process. You may also need a procedure at this time to preserve or enhance the site for implant placement. In that interim, if you would like to temporarily replace the gap with a tooth, a flipper can be made.

Step 2: *Scan & Implant Placement Guide*

A scan and series of impressions used to fabricate a guide. This guide will be used during the placement of the dental implant. At this visit you will also be given prescriptions to be used at the time of placement and we will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Step 3: *Implant Placement*

This will be a guided surgical placement of the implant to optimize and ensure proper placement of the implant post below the gum tissue.

Step 4: *Post-Op Checks & Impressions for Final Restoration*

The doctor and assistant will check the bone growth by taking an x-ray. This will show the integration of the bone around the implant.

Step 5: *Final Restoration Placement*

After a healing period, doctor will place a custom-made abutment and crown.

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Appointment Guide

Once the implant process has started, you may use this guide to track the phases of treatment & your appointments

Phase of Treatment	Appointment Length
Extraction & Implant Site Preservation (If Necessary)	1 Hour
	<i>Time Until Next Appointment: 3 to 4 Months</i>
Scan & Implant Guide Note: You will receive prescriptions for antibiotic and mouth rinse for day of surgery	1 Hour
	<i>Time Until Next Appointment: 4 Weeks</i>
Implant Placement Note: Please take antibiotic & use mouth rinse as prescribed prior to appointment	1 Hour
	<i>Time Until Next Appointment: 1 Week</i>
Post-Op Check 1	30 Minutes
	<i>Time Until Next Appointment: 9-11 Weeks</i>
Post-Op Check 2 & Impressions for Final Restoration	30 Minutes
	<i>Time Until Next Appointment: 2 Weeks</i>
Final Restoration	40 Minutes