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WHAT IS A DENTAL IMPLANT

A dental implant is an artificial tooth root that is made of titanium and is placed in the jawbone to support a replacement tooth. Implants are the most advanced and predictable way of replacing missing teeth. The high level of comfort and esthetics that are routinely obtained with implants often allow recipients to forget that these are not their natural teeth.

ADVANTAGES:

1. ESTHETICS

It is often impossible to differentiate an implantsupported tooth from a natural tooth. This is due to the fact that implants create a bond with the surrounding bone, allowing the replacement tooth to emerge from the gums, thus creating a very natural look.

2. PRESERVATION OF THE NATURAL TOOTH STRUCTURES: A CONSERVATIVE TREATMENT

Unlike traditional restoration (fixed bridges and partial dentures), dental implants allow us to replace the missing tooth or tweet without damaging or destroying the dental structure of adjacent teeth.

3. PRESERVATION OF THE BONY STRUCTURES

Following the loss of the natural teeth the jawbone begins to shrink, affecting not only the function of the surrounding teeth, but also the external appearance of the face (often causing wrinkles). Dental implants are the only tooth replacement option available which can stop the bony shrinkage caused by tooth loss.

4. MASTICATION, COMFORT

Since dental implants are firmly anchored in the jawbone, any food can be chewed with comfort and with confidence. In addition, implant-supported restorations do not require the palate to be covered as it is with conventional dentures. This allows all the taste buds in the palate to remain uncovered, which greatly improves the taste of food.



5. PREDICTABILITY, LONGEVITY

The success rate of implants is very high (92 % à 98 %), which make them a choice option for the replacement of missing teeth. Moreover, with a regular follow-up and dental care, implants can last a lifetime.



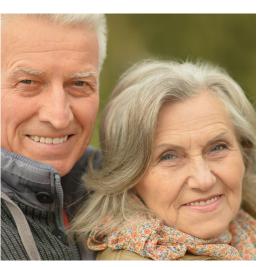


AM I A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR DENTAL IMPLANTS?

A good quality and quantity of bone are prerequisites for the placement of dental implants. However, in situations when the quantity of bone is insufficient, several techniques exist to reconstruct this bone in a predictable manner. Another prerequisite is that the gums are in good health. If there is a presence of periodontal disease, this should be treated prior to implant placement.

WHAT IS THE SEQUENCE OF TREATMENT?

Replacing missing teeth with dental implants requires a team effort between your restorative dentist and your periodontist. A thorough examination (clinical and radiological) needs to be done in order to determine where and how the implants can best be placed. A treatment plan will then be made to answer your specific needs.



REPLACING MISSING TEETH WITH IMPLANTS USUALLY REQUIRES THREE STEPS:

STEP 1

The first step consists in the periodontist placing the dental implants in the jawbone (done with local « freezing »). Depending on the clinical case, the top of the implant will either be left exposed in the mouth or covered by the gums. The integration period (fusion of the bone and implant) usually ranges between 3-6 months.

STEP 2

If the top of the implant was covered with the gums during the first step, a second procedure is necessary to uncover the implant.

STEP 3

This step is done by the restorative dentist and consists in the fabrication of replacement teeth, which will be firmly attached to the implants.

In certain situations, steps 1,2 and 3 can be combined in order to immediately replace the missing teeth on the implants.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PRESERVE MY DENTAL IMPLANTS AS LONG AS POSSIBLE?

The long-term success of dental implants rests primarily on a good oral hygiene, regular dental visits for implant maintenance and respecting the recommendations made by your dentist.

WHO CAN I DISCUSS DENTAL IMPLANTS WITH?

The placement of dental implants requires extensive knowledge and a specialized education. Periodontists are dental specialists who have received advanced training in the placement of dental implants and the treatment of gum disease.

If you are interested in dental implants, talk to your periodontist about them.

An evaluation of your specific situation can be made to determine if you are a suitable candidate for tooth replacement with dental implants.

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