



Advantages of Dental Implants

Your teeth are important. They play a vital role every time you eat, speak or smile.



More than 30 million Americans are missing all of their teeth in one or both jaws.¹ People with missing teeth tend to choose foods that are easier to eat instead of more nutritious ones that can be hard to chew. Missing teeth may make it more difficult to talk and can detract from an otherwise beautiful smile.



Dental implants offer a tooth-replacement option that's strong, natural looking and comfortable. A dental implant is a small device that is surgically placed in the mouth. It fuses to the jawbone in about three to six months and can then serve as the foundation for the replacement tooth, which is usually a dental crown.



Implants are often a better alternative than bridges. The procedure for a conventional fixed bridge requires dentists to shave down and crown the teeth on either side of the missing tooth to support the bridge. A bridge can damage neighboring natural teeth and often will need to be replaced over a patient's lifetime, depending on age.



Implants can last for years – and with good care, many last a lifetime. In fact, they currently have a success rate of up to 98 percent over 10 years.

Other advantages of dental implants include:



They provide long-term comfort and stability.



They restore proper chewing functions.



They look and feel like natural teeth.



They don't affect bordering teeth.



If you need a tooth replaced, ask your dentist if you are a good candidate for a dental implant. Your dentist can provide you with the best possible treatment options based on your oral health and history.

¹ American Academy of Implant Dentistry: http://www.aaid.com/about/press_room/dental_implants_faq.html.