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DENTAL IMPLANTS

If you're missing a tooth or several teeth, you may be a candidate for dental implants. They replace missing teeth with a titanium root-form implant. In the last twenty years, Dental Implants have become an exciting option for patients who have lost some or all of their teeth. For some doctors it has even become the standard of care.. Researched for over 30 years, they are effective, natural looking and comfortable. They can replace one tooth or a complete set of teeth, therefore eliminating removable dentures and bridges forever.

Dental Implant Examination- It is important that anyone considering implant dentistry receive a thorough examination by a team of specialists that are available. A Prosthodontist, Oral Surgeon and Periodontist are available to help you get the right information and to place and restore your dental implant. This insures the highest degree of success and will be maintained in the future.

Staged Approach to Implant Dentistry

Stage I: A surgical procedure to place the implant into the jaw bone is performed by an Oral Surgery or a Periodontist after examining the X-rays. It is about a 1 hour procedure under local anesthesia and the patients will feel a little sore for two to four days. Complete bone healing takes between 3-6 months depending on the site of the implant.

Stage II: A second small surgical procedure is performed and a healing cap and the Implant Post are placed on top of the titanium implant. Healing takes 3 weeks.

Stage III: A Restorative Dentist who specializes in Dental Implants will first place a temporary crown on the implant and then fabricate a final crown made of natural looking Porcelain. When properly performed the dental implant may last for over 20 years.

Ideal Implant Patients – The ideal implant patient should have a positive outlook, willingness to understand the treatment, and have proper amount of bone in order to place the implant. Success of dental implants has been shown by researchers to be directly related to the health of the individual and the abundance of dense cortical bone. A careful analysis will be made by Specialists in the field of dental implants to determine the optimal success for each patient.

What Are Dental Implants?

They are Titanium grade IV metal that is inert and has been used for hip implant therapy since the 1950's. They shaped like a root of a tooth and are placed in the upper or lower jaw bones to replace missing roots of teeth. Titanium, gold or ceramic post is then placed over the root-formed implant and a crown is then placed over the post that simulates a natural tooth.

Success Rates

Over the past thirty years there have been hundreds of research studies reporting between 95-99% success rates for patients throughout the world. Proper protocol has been recorded and these high success rates are still being maintained by the specialists in the field of Implant Dentistry.

How long do they last?

The earliest reported case is at least twenty-five years. They have been documented are still in function. The average long-term usage is reported to be between 15 and 20 years. The failures that occur are within the first two years, which is usually due to poor planning and lack of adequate support.

Who needs Dental Implants?

Dental Implants are for anyone who is missing one or more teeth or any individual who is wearing removable appliances such as Dentures and Partial Dentures. In addition many patients who are diagnoses with periodontal disease and potential loss of their existing teeth may plan for dental implants as to avoid wearing a removable prosthesis. Younger patients who are active in sports may also need to replace a missing tooth due to trauma during a sport activity or accident that has occurred.

Are they Painful?

Under proper protocol and planning with Implant Specialists the procedure is performed under local anesthetic, similar to doing a filling. There is usually some discomfort for one or two days. Usually the patient is feeling fine and some slight swelling may occur, but this is rare. Patients can usually return to normal everyday life by the third day after surgery.

What is the Alternative to Implant therapy?

Patients who cannot or do not choose to get dental implants for their missing teeth have two choices, to use a conventional bridge to replace the missing tooth. This means using the two adjacent teeth need to drilled to a post position as support for the fixed bridge. For patient who are missing all their teeth or who will be losing their teeth due to periodontal disease they will have to live with a removable denture

What are the Advantages of Dental Implants?

Preservation of existing teeth

Teeth that are permanent and are not removed

Esthetically more realistic

Better comfort for the entire mouth

More confidence in dining out with friends

Better function and digestion than with removable dentures

Avoiding root canals in adjacent teeth that are used for a conventional bridge

WHO IS A CANDIDATE FOR DENTAL IMPLANTS?

Patients from the ages of 17 to 95 years of age are candidates. The first prerequisite for dental implants is a healthy patient. Patients with health problems and medications are still candidates; however clearance from their physicians is mandatory. Patients who are missing one or more teeth are in need of them. Patients who are missing all their teeth and are wearing removable dentures are also excellent candidates because they can attain better function esthetics and better self-confidence.