

Dental implants

Teeth have variety of functions—esthetics, food intake, speech etc. For normalcy of life teeth require our attention in a big way.

A social bias exists against people with missing teeth. An incomplete smile diminishes quality of life. People with missing teeth or a denture that slips or clicks report feeling socially isolated. Part of this isolation is self-imposed, as these individuals choose to withdraw from friends and family rather than let others see the condition of their smile.

[Dental Implants- A Permanent Solution!](#)

Dental implants restore incomplete smiles thereby transforming the lives of people with missing teeth. They replace permanent teeth lost to disease, trauma, or neglect. The structure of an implant mirrors a natural tooth to provide all of the benefits of a complete smile. Implants improve the way a smile looks, feels, and functions. They help people regain control of their oral health and provide a wealth of benefits over traditional replacement teeth.

Implants are considered a permanent tooth replacement option because the titanium implant posts actually becomes a lasting part of your jawbone structure. People with implant-supported replacement teeth are able to enjoy active & healthy lifestyles due to the worry-free nature of dental implants. Simply put, they love their new smiles – and they love life again.

What Are Dental Implants?

Dental implants are replacement of tooth roots. Implants provide a strong foundation for fixed (permanent) or removable replacement teeth that are made to match your natural teeth.

How Successful Are Dental Implants?

Success rates of dental implants vary, depending on where in the jaw the implants are placed but, in general, dental implants have a success rate of up to 98%. With proper care (see below), implants can last a lifetime.

Can Anyone Get Dental Implants?

In most cases, anyone healthy enough to undergo a routine dental extraction or oral surgery can be considered for a dental implant. Patients should have healthy gums and enough bone to hold the implant. They also must be committed to good oral hygiene and regular dental visits. Heavy smokers, people suffering from uncontrolled chronic disorders - such as diabetes or heart disease or patients who have had radiation therapy to the head/neck area need to be evaluated on an individual basis.

Dental Implant Procedure

The dental implant process involves the development of an individualized treatment plan. The plan addresses to specific needs of the patient and is prepared by a team of professionals who are specially trained and experienced in oral surgery and prosthetic dentistry. This team approach provides coordinated care based on the implant option that is best for you.

Treatment options with implant

Replacing a Single Tooth: If a single tooth is missing, one implant and a crown can replace it.

A dental implant replaces both the lost natural tooth and its root.

Replacing Several Teeth: If several teeth are missing, implant-supported bridges can replace them. Dental implants will replace both your lost natural teeth and some of the roots.

Replacing All of Your Teeth: If all teeth are missing, an implant-supported full bridge or full denture can replace them. Dental implants will replace both your lost natural teeth and some of the roots.

Sinus Augmentation: A key to implant success is the quantity and quality of the bone where the implant is to be placed. The upper back jaw has traditionally been one of the most difficult areas to successfully place dental implants due to insufficient bone quantity and quality and the close proximity to the sinus. Sinus augmentation can help correct this problem by raising the sinus floor and developing bone for the placement of dental implants.

Advantages of dental implants

- **Better esthetics-** implants are placed according to the general shape and structure of your gums, they often end up looking much better than the missing teeth that they are supposed to be replacing in the first place.
- **Better speech-**the teeth that are supported by the dental implants are fixed in position, the problems of slurred speech due to loose teeth does not arise.
- **Comfort-**the dental implants provide much more comfort in comparison to the removable dentures. This is due to the fact that they are designed to fuse with the bone and become an integral part of yourself.
- **Improved eating-**the dental implants are very strong and one can use them to chew without experiencing any pains and discomforts.
- **Better self esteem-** It is a fact that better looks are a confidence booster and this is essentially what the dental implants offer.



Dental Implant secured firmly in bone and supports the prosthesis that simulates the original one.



Facial Trauma

Facial trauma is any injury of the face, upper and lower jaw bones.

Causes

Blunt or penetrating trauma can cause injury to the area of the face that includes the upper jaw, lower jaw, cheek, nose or forehead. Common causes of injury to the face include:

- Automobile accidents
- Penetrating injuries
- Violence

Typically, facial injuries are classified as soft tissue injuries (skin and gums), bony injuries (fractures), or injuries to special regions (such as the eyes, facial nerves or the salivary glands).

Symptoms

- Changes in sensation over the face
- Deformed or uneven face or facial bones
- Difficulty in breathing through the nose due to swelling and bleeding
- Double vision
- Missing teeth
- Swelling around the eyes that may cause problem in vision

Exams and Tests

The doctor will perform a physical exam, which may show:

- Bleeding from the nose, eyes, or mouth, or nasal blockage
- Breaks in the skin (lacerations)
- Bruising around the eyes or widening of the distance between the eyes, which may mean injury to the bones between the eye sockets

The following may suggest bone fractures:

- Abnormal sensations on the cheek and irregularities that can be felt
- An upper jaw that moves when the head is still

A CT scan of the head may be done.

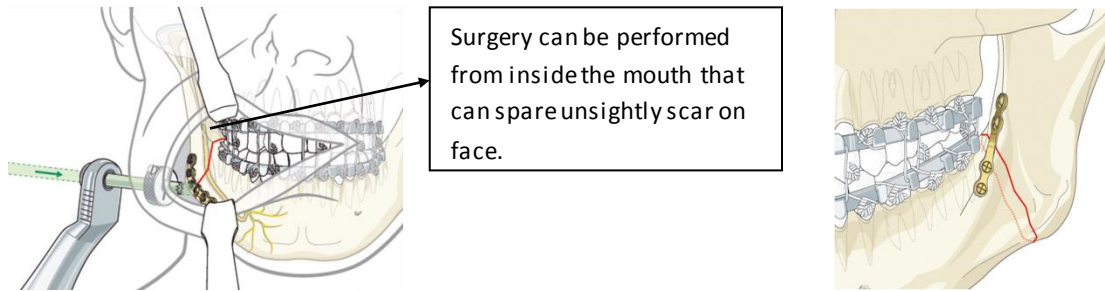
Treatment

Patients who cannot function normally or who have significant deformity will need surgery.

The goal of treatment is to:

- Control bleeding
- Create a clear airway
- **Fix broken bone segments with titanium plates and screws (Figures below)**
- Leave as few scars as possible
- Rule out other injuries
- Treat the fracture

Treatment should be immediate, as long as the person is stable and there are no neck fractures or life-threatening injuries.



Outlook (Prognosis)

Patients generally do very well with proper treatment. You will probably look different than you did before your injury. You may need to have another surgery 6 - 12 months later.

Possible Complications (If not treated properly or on time):-

General complications include, but are not limited to:

- Bleeding
- Asymmetric face
- Infection
- Nervous system problems
- Numbness or weakness
- Loss of vision or double vision

Prevention

Wear seat belts and use protective head gear when appropriate. Avoid violent confrontations with other people.