

Commonly Asked Questions:

Q: Will the implant procedure hurt?

A: Only “novocaine” is necessary to place a single implant. During the visit, you will feel nothing once the area has been numbed. When the “novocaine” wears off, there may be mild discomfort. This procedure will not cause you to miss work.

Q: How long does a single implant procedure take?

A: The visit to place a single implant is about an hour long. A 15-20 minute visit may be necessary in 4-6 weeks to uncover the top of the implant and place a healing cap.

Q: What is the cost of a single implant?

A: The cost of a single implant will vary with the situation. Your periodontist and dentist will both discuss this with you before proceeding with any treatment.

Q: How well do implants work?

A: Implants are predictable, with studies reporting success rates well above 95%. While neither implants nor any other procedure is 100% predictable in your body, when performed correctly, implant placement is highly successful. It is important to realize that if an implant fails, it is not a rejection. If the bone does not “attach” to the implant, it is loose and cannot be used. In this case, the implant is removed and another one is placed.

Replacing Your Missing Tooth

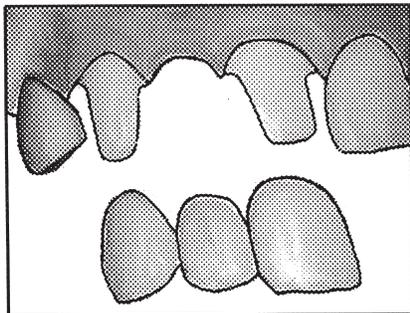


When a tooth is lost, it is important to replace it as quickly as possible. If this is not done, teeth next to the empty space begin to drift and teeth above or below the space move.

The result is a “collapse” of the bite and an unstable bite relationship. There is also a much greater chance of developing periodontal disease around the remaining teeth.

Tooth replacement may take a number of forms. The two most predictable types of treatment are a single tooth implant or a fixed bridge.

A bridge has the disadvantage of requiring the teeth adjacent to the space to be filed down, removing the enamel. A three unit bridge is then fabricated in a laboratory and cemented into place.



To make a 3 tooth bridge, the adjacent teeth have to be filed down.

Over time, a cavity may form underneath the bridge, requiring its replacement.

Placement of an implant is more conservative than a bridge, and eliminates the problem of decay forming.

A titanium implant is gently placed into the bone. The implant is restored 4 to 6 weeks later, after the surrounding bone has attached to the implant.



An abutment has been placed in the implant.

Once the implant has healed, an abutment and single crown is placed by your restorative dentist. This approach eliminates the need to file down your adjacent teeth.



The implant has been restored with a crown.

Studies have demonstrated that implant supported crowns are more stable and predictable than fixed bridges, over time.