

# DENTAL IMPLANT

In addition to the negative impact missing teeth can have on one's confidence, missing teeth can also cause a range of health issues if left untreated long enough. Jawbone loss, shifting teeth, changes to chewing patterns, difficulty eating and speech difficulties may all occur. Replacing a lost tooth with a dental implant can significantly improve the patient's quality of life, health, and restore function.

A dental implant is a medical device surgically implanted into your jaw to replace a missing tooth or teeth. They provide support for a crown, bridge or denture.

Implants are composed of three parts:

- Implant body: a screw made of titanium, which is unique in its ability to fuse with bone
- Abutment (connector): Joins the prosthesis (crown, etc) to the implant(s)
- Crown: Visible above the gumline, it is the tooth part of the implant, typically made out of porcelain or other ceramic material to mimic the natural look of the surrounding teeth

In order to determine if you are a candidate for dental implants, discuss your options with a dental provider. Your periodontist will require a 3-dimensional CT scan to evaluate the quality and quantity of your bone so they can plan the best options for you. If dental implants are determined to be the optimal treatment option for you, it is important to be aware that the entire process can take several months from start to finish, and will involve multiple steps, with some variations depending upon your particular case. For example, some patients may require the removal of a damaged tooth and/or a dental bone graft prior to having the implant placed.

The day your periodontist places your implant they will first numb the area using a local anesthetic. Then, your periodontist will make a small incision in your gum to expose the bone. A small area will be drilled to accommodate the metal post of the dental implant. The implant is left to heal for approximately two - three months so the jawbone can grow around the implant and give it stability. Once the implant is stable enough, the crown can be placed on top by your general dentist.

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## What to expect:

- Prescriptions
- Sensitive to temperature
- Mild/moderate discomfort
- Inflammation
- Possible temporary prosthetic to fill in the missing space
- Sutures
- Post-op appointments
- If you take ASPIRIN, continue to take it
- If you take blood thinning medications, please follow your periodontist and doctor's instructions on taking it prior to surgery

## Pre op instructions:

- No caffeine the day of procedure
- No alcohol the day before and day of the procedure
- No smoking at least 1 week prior to and after procedure.

## Post op instructions:

- Soft food diet following surgery; no carbonation
- No straws, spitting, hard swishing
- Avoid heavy lifting/exercise
- Must maintain good oral hygiene
- Soft toothbrush use for the first week
- Ice pack for first 24 hours only
- StellaLife Rinse 3x a day until bottle is finished
- For pain control and reduction of swelling, take 600 mg Ibuprofen (this is 3 over the counter 200mg tablets), wait 3 hours then take 500mg Tylenol (1 over the counter tablet) and continue to alternate medications every 3 hours. If this does not control your pain, take the 600 mg ibuprofen and 500 mg Tylenol at the same time, every 6 hrs.
- If medications were prescribed, please follow the instructions on the bottle for their use.