



Smile Guide

Tooth Loss Treatment Options



? What Happens After Tooth Loss?

Tooth loss can occur for many reasons, but all can cause restrictions on daily life. Replacing missing teeth is very important to your general health and to the health of your other teeth. According to the American College of Prosthodontists, more than 36 million Americans have no teeth and about 120 million Americans are missing at least one tooth.¹

Tooth loss may cause

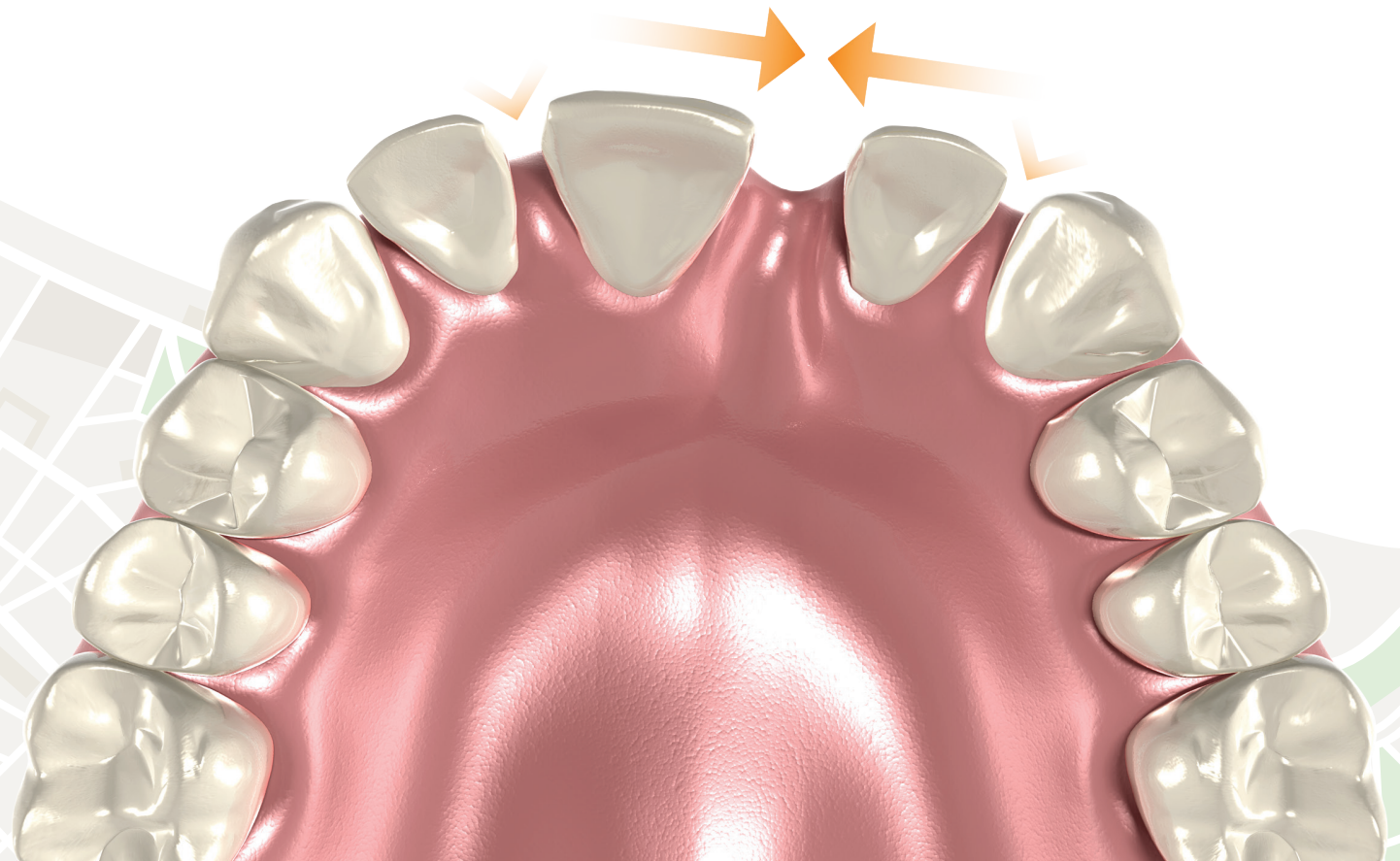
- Bone loss leading to changes in your appearance
- Reduction in social confidence
- Trouble eating and poor nutrition
- Difficulty speaking



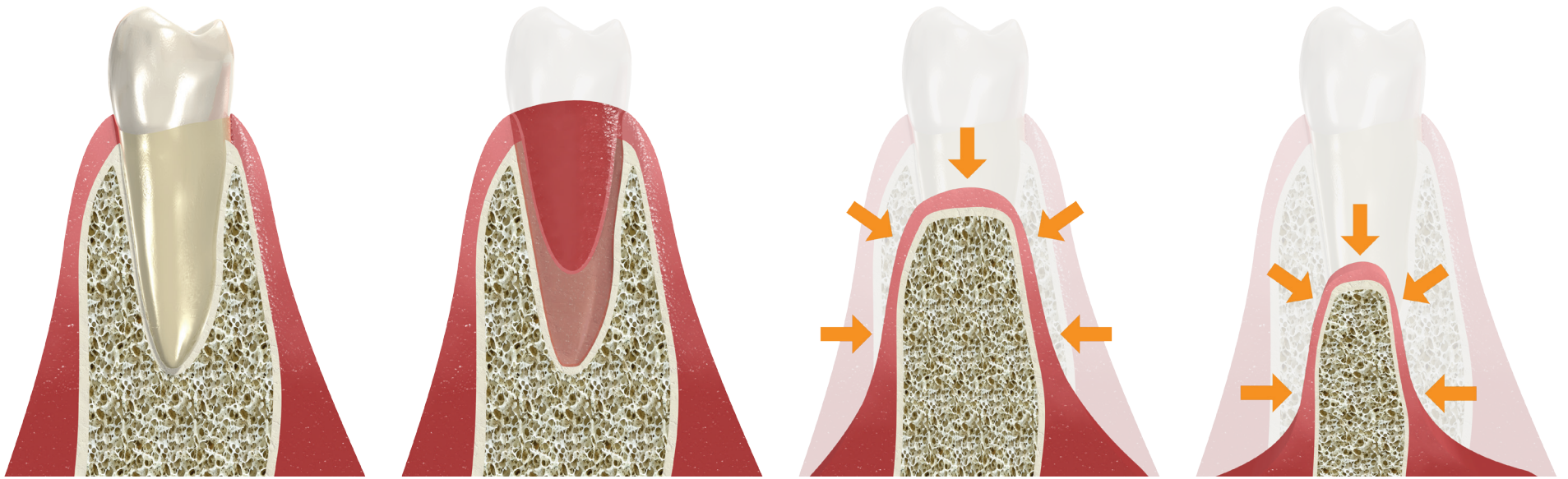
¹American College of Prosthodontists Facts & Figures.

Appearance

A missing tooth draws immediate attention and gives the appearance of neglect. The adjacent teeth can collapse into the space created by the missing tooth. This causes the teeth to move out of place and have a negative cosmetic effect.



? How Does Bone Loss Occur?



Prior to tooth loss, your teeth stimulate your jaw bone. This helps your jaw bones keep their strength and shape.

When you lose teeth, you lose that stimulation and this results in bone loss. This bone loss is called **resorption**.

Appearance Change After Bone Loss

Your bones support your face. When you have bone loss, the bone supporting your face disappears. This changes how you look.



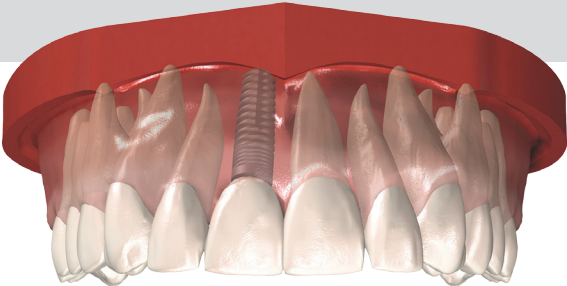
Poor Nutrition & Eating Ability

Nutrition & Health: You may not be able to eat the same foods as you used to, so your nutrition can also suffer.

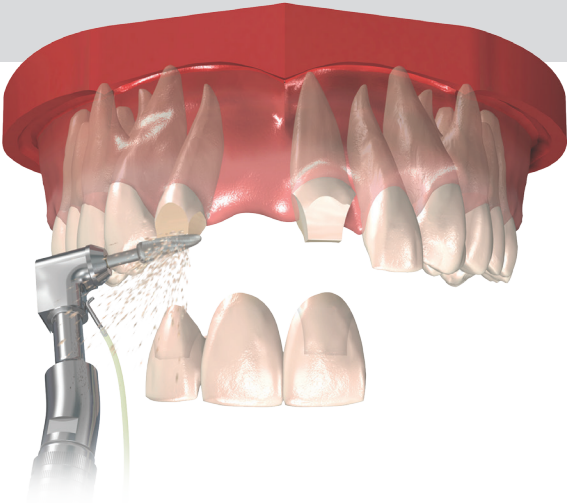


Choices for Replacing Missing Teeth

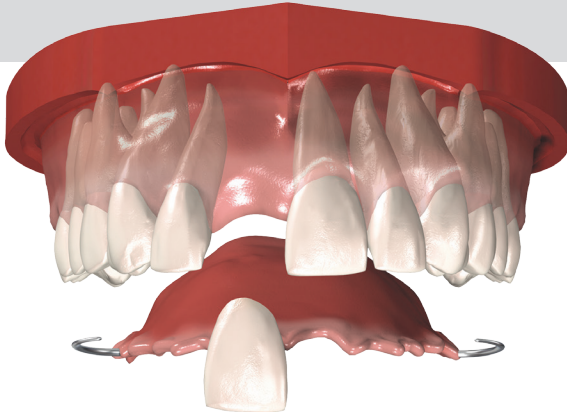
Single Tooth



Crown & Bridge



Partial Denture



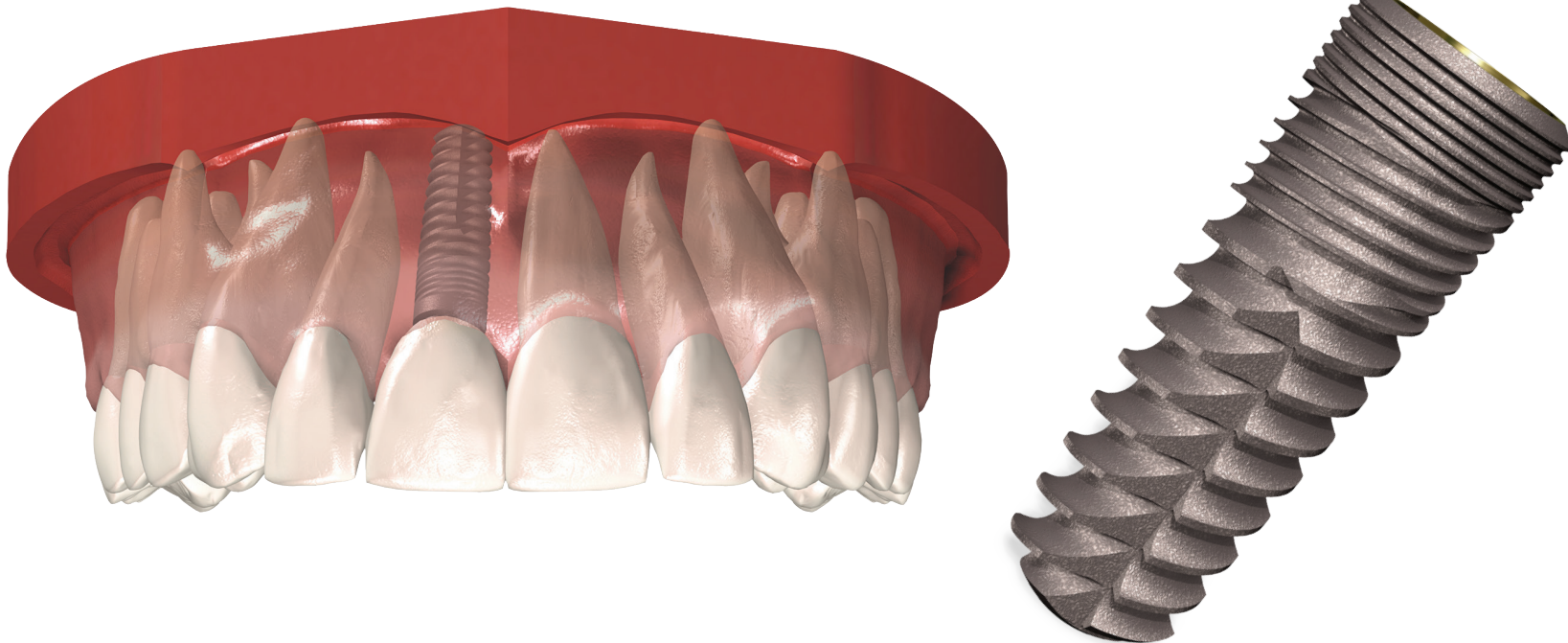
Pros and Cons of Dental Implants

PROS

- **Preserves Your Looks:** Keeps the jaw bone healthy and preserves your appearance
- **No Weakening / Filing Neighboring Teeth**
- **More Natural:** Most like a natural tooth
- **Lower Long Term Cost**

CONS

- **Time:** Dental implants can take longer to integrate
- **Higher Starting Cost:** Dental implants can have a higher starting cost than other treatments



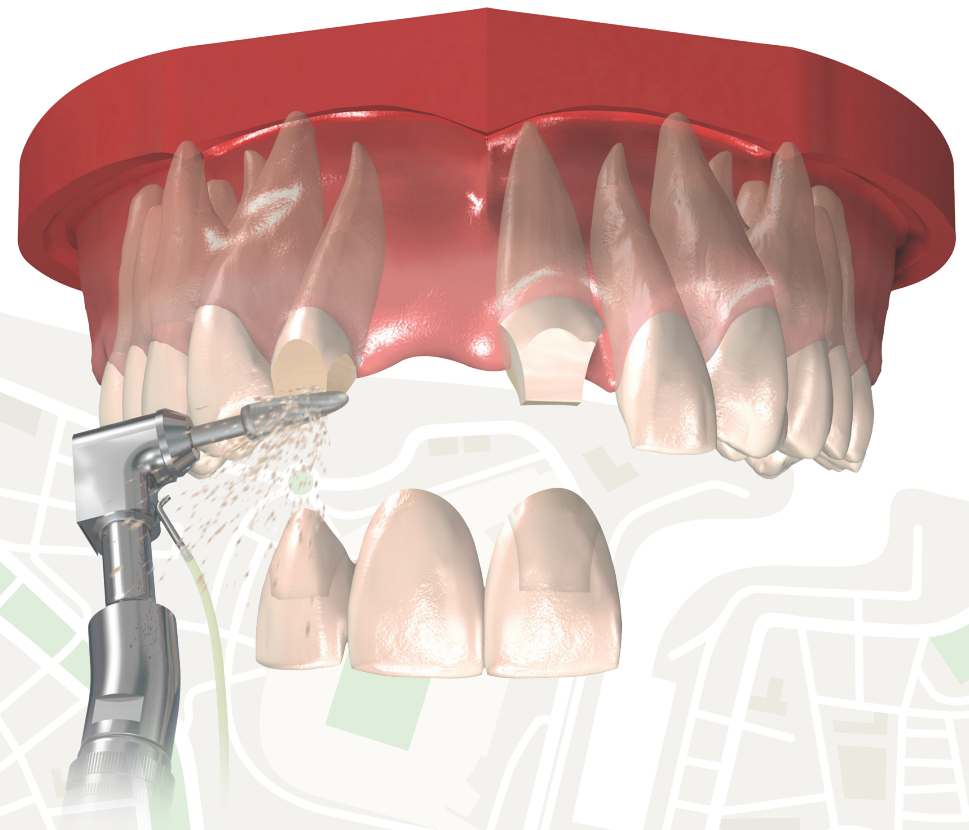
Pros & Cons of Crown & Bridge

PROS

- **Faster:** Generally takes less wait time than an implant or partial denture

CONS

- **Lower Lifetime:** Clinically proven not to last as long as an implant
- **Destructive:** Requires grinding down two healthy neighboring teeth to create the crown and bridge
- **Higher Starting Cost:** Crown and bridges can be expensive to make
- **Difficult to Clean:** Bridges need special care and need more work to keep clean. Cannot be flossed like normal teeth



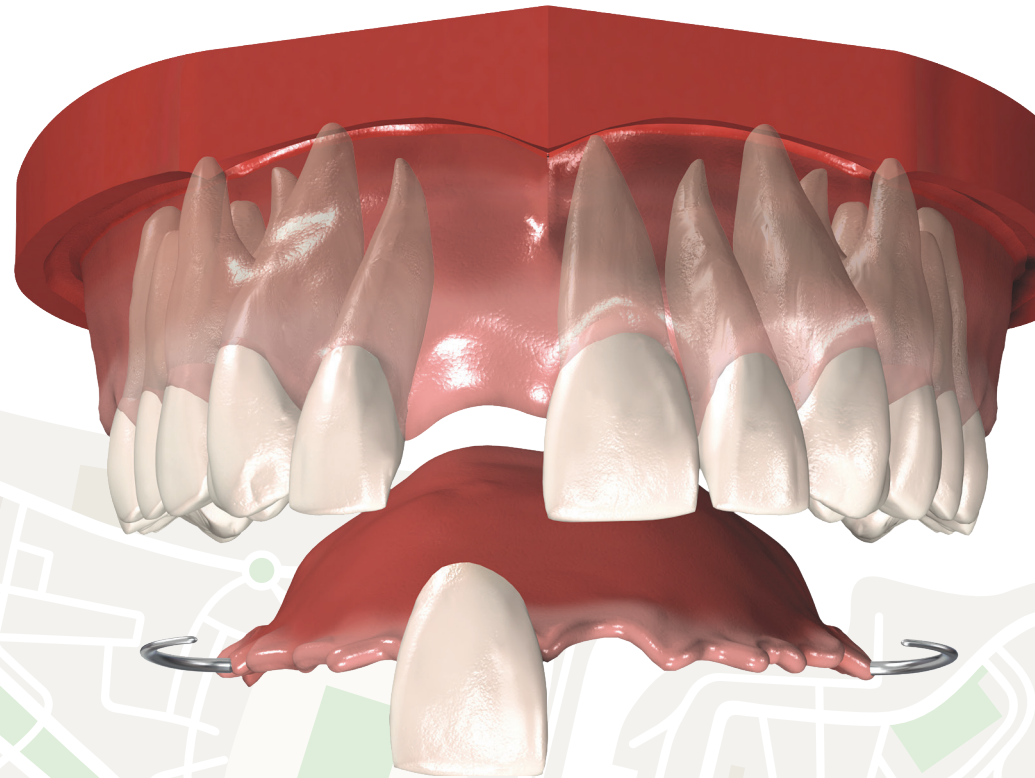
Pros & Cons of Partial Dentures

PROS

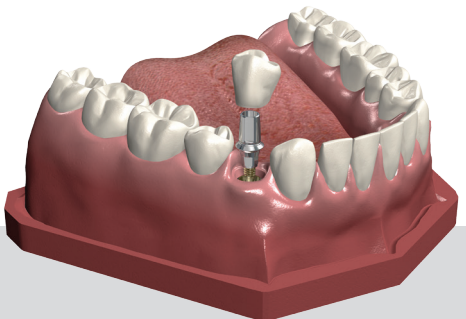
- **Lower Starting Cost:** Can cost less than an implant in the beginning but will require replacement over the course of the patient's lifetime.

CONS

- **Bone Loss:** Your appearance changes due to bone loss
- **Difficulty Speaking**
- **Problems with Eating:** More difficult due to slippage
- **Uncomfortable:** May experience discomfort, irritation and sores



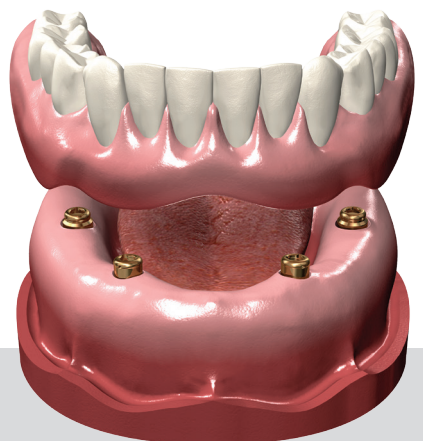
Implant-Retained Options



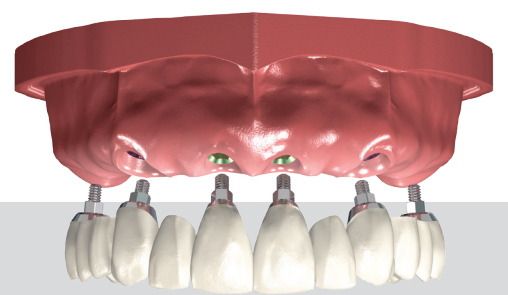
Single Tooth



Crown & Bridge



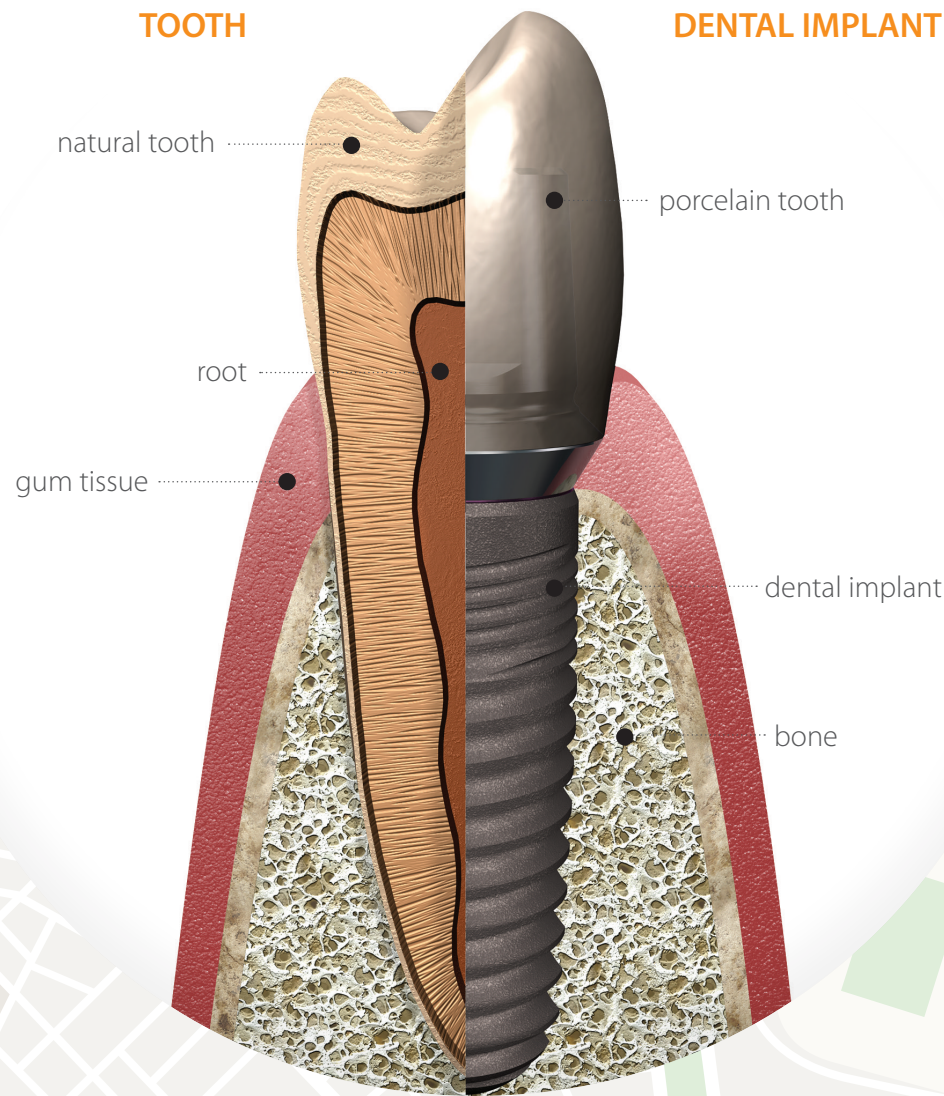
Overdenture



Full Denture

? How Do Implants Work?

A natural tooth consists of a root and a crown. If you lose a tooth, most often you lose both. Dental implants, made of medical grade titanium, are substitutes for the roots of missing teeth. Much like your natural tooth root, dental implants act as an anchor for a replacement tooth or crown, or set of teeth. The human body accepts titanium and is biocompatible and stable.



? Who Should Get An Implant?

- Implants may be the right choice for anyone missing one or more teeth due to injury, disease or decay.
- They are especially practical for patients who can or no longer want to wear removable dentures.
- It is important that a patient has enough bone to support an implant. If you do not have enough bone, there are safe and effective ways to correct bone deficiency.
- Your clinician will determine if you are a candidate for dental implants after a careful evaluation of your dental and medical history.



Implant-Retained Options Cost

Dental implants are a predictable, long-term solution for missing teeth. Furthermore, 95% implant survival rate when placed in natural bone². Talk to your doctor about how implants can be financially beneficial long-term.



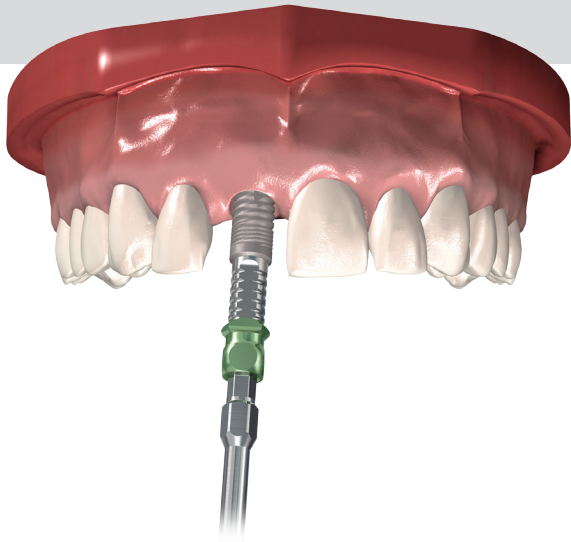
*Evaluation of survival and success of dental implants reported in longitudinal studies with a follow-up period of at least 10 years: a systemic review, International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery 44.3 (2015): 377-88.

Implant Treatment Process

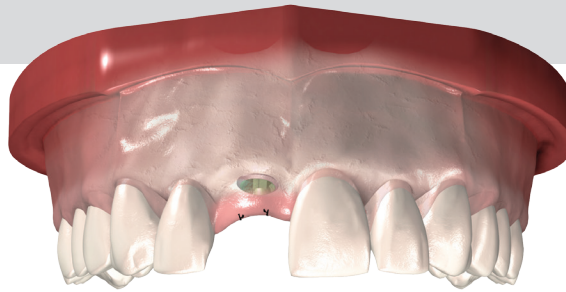


Implant Treatment Process

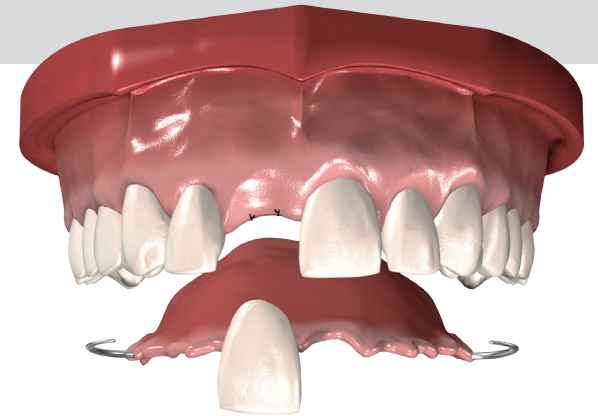
The implant is placed into the area where a tooth is missing.



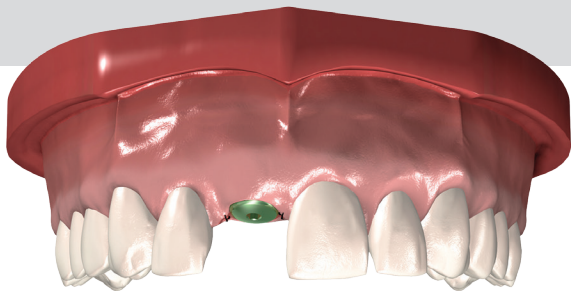
Over the next 3 to 6 months, the implant and the bone join together to form an anchor for your new tooth.



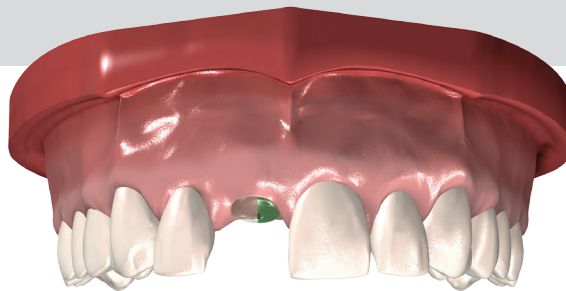
During this time, a temporary tooth replacement option can be worn over the implant site.



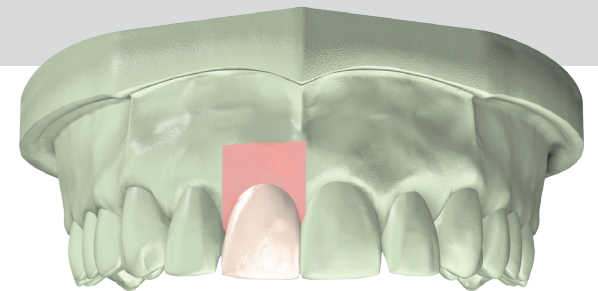
Often, a second step of the procedure is necessary to uncover the implant and attach the healing abutment.



Your gums will be allowed to heal for a couple of weeks following this procedure.



Finally, a replacement tooth called a crown will be created for you by a dental laboratory.



Implant Treatment Process

Your dentist will attach an abutment, which will hold the crown securely onto the implant.

After a short time, you will experience restored confidence in your smile and your ability to chew and speak.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are dental implants?

A: A dental implant is an artificial tooth root that is placed into the area where a tooth is missing to hold a replacement tooth or bridge.

Q: Does the implant treatment hurt?

A: This is a common concern. Patients receive similar anesthesia as patients having other types of procedures performed.

Q: How soon can I return to work?

A: Unfortunately, there's no one answer to that question. Dental implant placement is an outpatient procedure, and many patients can return to work within one to three days.

Q: How long does it take to place implants?

A: The procedure itself may take 1 to 2 hours and the healing time is 3 to 6 months.

Q: Will the implant look real?

A: The appearance of today's implant tooth replacements is nearly indiscernible from that of a natural tooth. It is often the most aesthetically pleasing choice for single tooth replacement.

Q: Are implants worth it?

A: Implants can last for decades when properly taken care of. Multiple research studies from the 1990's show single tooth implants last at least 10 years in more than 95% of patients. The same results have been shown in countless studies for full arch implant work: Bars with overdentures, teeth in a day, hybrid dentures, immediate loading of implants and fixed complete bridgework.



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