

## BENEFITS OF IMPLANTS

### •A free-standing tooth replacement:

Unlike a bridge, implants do not involve the adjacent teeth for support. This means you would not need to shave down adjacent healthy teeth to support a bridge. Also, if something goes wrong with a bridge, at least 3 teeth would need to be treated to fix the problem, whereas with an implant, only the one tooth space is dealt with.



*Bridge:* Adjacent teeth are shaven down to support the bridge

### •Ease of cleaning:

Unlike a bridge which can't be flossed normally, implants can be treated more like natural teeth using simply a toothbrush and floss for maintenance. Occasionally a proxy-brush or Waterpik may be useful.

### • Long term restoration:

The implant fixture should remain in your bone for the rest of your lifetime, PROVIDED you clean it daily, just like the rest of your teeth!

## RISKS OF TREATMENT

- Temporary Bleeding, Swelling, Bruising, Infection and/or Pain.
- Infection that is chronic leading to implant loss.
- Possible Permanent Numbness in the lower lip.

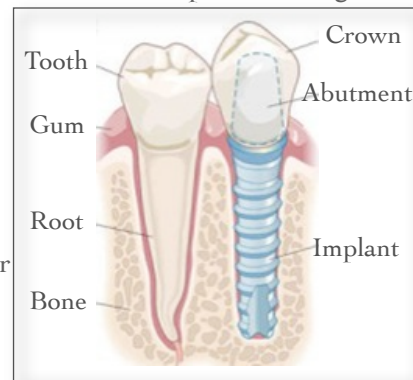
## DENTAL IMPLANTS AND MISSING TEETH

Dental implants are the most advanced method we have in dentistry today to replace missing teeth. They were first used in 1978, and have made great advances over the years. As long as you have stopped growing, young and old alike can use dental implants to replace missing teeth.

Implants are metal screws made of titanium (the same material used in hip and knee replacements) which are placed into the bone to replace a missing tooth or a group of missing teeth. Titanium has been shown to make a special bond with bone called osseointegration. It takes at least 6 weeks for this process to be completed so that the implant is integrated to the bone.

After osseointegration, the crown or bridge, or even a denture, usually connected to the implant by a piece called the abutment, can be fitted to the implants by your dentist so you can begin to chew and function with them. Sometimes it takes longer than 3 months for the implant to integrate to the

bone, depending on the quality of bone that the implant will be placed into, or if there is a bone graft or sinus graft placed at the same time.



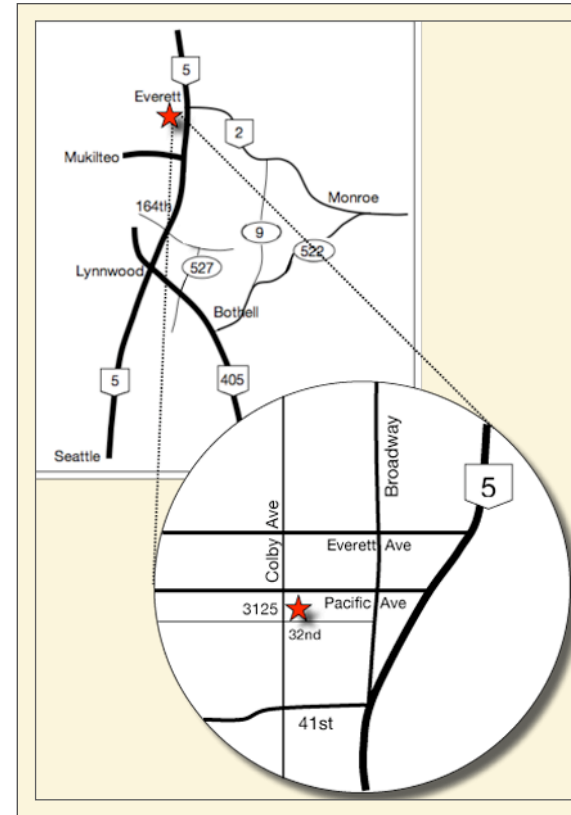
## WHAT IF I DO NOTHING

When teeth are missing, adjacent and opposing teeth can drift into the wrong position. This can disrupt esthetics, jaw joint comfort, chewing function, and cause excessive wear or load on remaining teeth leading to their early loss.

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# PATIENT PAGES

## A SURGICAL PERIODONTAL BROCHURE FOR PATIENTS

BY DR. PAMELA NICOARA

## Dental Implants for Back Teeth



# Surgical Considerations

## DAY OF SURGERY

- Expect about 1 hr for surgery for 1 tooth (more time needed for more teeth).
- Photos of the gums only will be taken before and after to record initial appearance and outcomes.
- Local anesthetic ('Novocaine' to numb the area).
- Sedation if desired (must be organized prior to the day of surgery) in 2 forms below. You will need a driver to bring you and take you home who can speak and read English and sign the informed consent for you. You may not drive, take a taxi or bus, or leave alone.
  1. Halcion: Anti-anxiety Tablet with sleepiness and amnesia as side effects. or
  2. General Sedation: with an anesthesiologist to 'knock you out'.
- Don't wear any make up.
- Eat a light breakfast.
- Bring headphones /iPod if you want.
- No work or exercise the rest of that day, and possibly for the day or two after especially if tissue is taken from the palate and your job is highly physical (i.e.: FedEx delivery person) or requires a lot of talking (i.e.: receptionist)

## PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Follow all instructions provided: take medications (antibiotics and/or pain killers) on time, use the mouth rinse, do NOT touch or eat on the areas treated, rest.

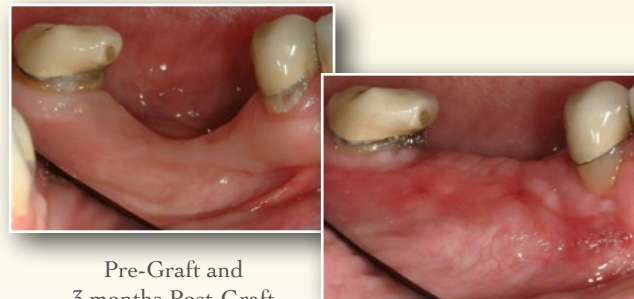
I have read this brochure and understand what may be involved in my treatment. I will have the opportunity to ask questions prior to my surgery.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient Signature

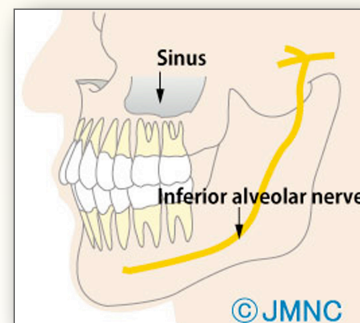
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## IMPORTANT ANATOMY

Implants require bone to surround the entire screw. When teeth are lost, the bone naturally shrinks away. Rebuilding that bone requires bone grafting. Sometimes the bone graft can be done at the same time the implant is placed, and sometimes so much bone is missing, that the graft has to be done first (see below).



Other areas where bone is not present include the sinus in the upper jaw (which slowly gets larger with age and when teeth are lost), and the area of the inferior alveolar nerve. Sometimes so much bone has shrunk away that it cannot be grafted, and the nerve location is too close to allow an implant to be placed. This is rare and is related to missing teeth for many, many years.



## SINGLE TOOTH REPLACEMENT

Sometimes simply placing an implant is all that is needed to replace a missing tooth, and there is no bone grafting needed so the process is relatively simple. Often times, however, adjacent teeth need

# Dental Implants

to be treated to achieve optimal esthetic results. For Dr. Nicoara's patient below, the tooth replaced with an implant had a gum graft to reduce the concavity where the bone was missing, while the adjacent teeth on the left side had gum grafting to cover the recession and level the gum margins.



## MULTIPLE TOOTH REPLACEMENT

For this patient of Dr. Nicoara's, periodontitis destroyed the gum and bone around a tooth that was supporting a bridge. This caused the loss of one tooth, and the suspended tooth of the bridge, and left a large defect in the bone. Two spaces were replaced with implants, which also required ridge and sinus augmentation.



## THE PROCESS

Implants can sometimes be a time consuming process, but the long-term benefits generally outweigh this disadvantage. Typically, the final crown is not placed on the implant the same day the implant is placed as usually 3-4 months of healing is required. For many back teeth, a replacement may not be esthetically necessary. But if the back tooth is in the upper jaw and more visibly missing when smiling, then a temporary tooth replacement in the form of either a 'flipper' or 'essix appliance' is used to help hide the fact that the tooth is missing.

If a tooth is present and the implant cannot be placed the same time the tooth is removed (as is the case for back molar teeth), an additional 2 months of healing are required prior to implant placement surgery.



## MAINTENANCE

Implants, similar to teeth, can experience bone loss, called 'Peri-Implantitis'.

Regular cleanings and your own daily hygiene can prevent such bone loss from occurring. Special surgical techniques can be used to attempt to arrest and sometimes regenerate bone around an implant, but if bone loss is severe enough, the implant cannot be saved and must be removed.

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All cases are patients of Dr. Pamela Nicoara.



Healthy Implant



Peri-Implantitis