

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. Often a proxy-brush or Waterpik will also 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.

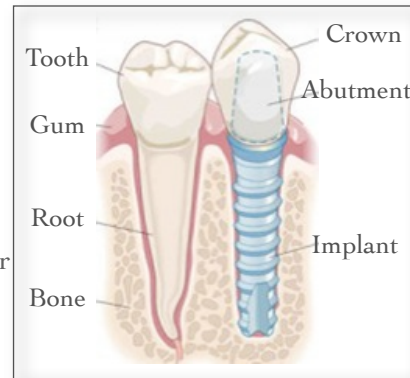
DENTAL IMPLANTS AND MISSING TEETH

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.



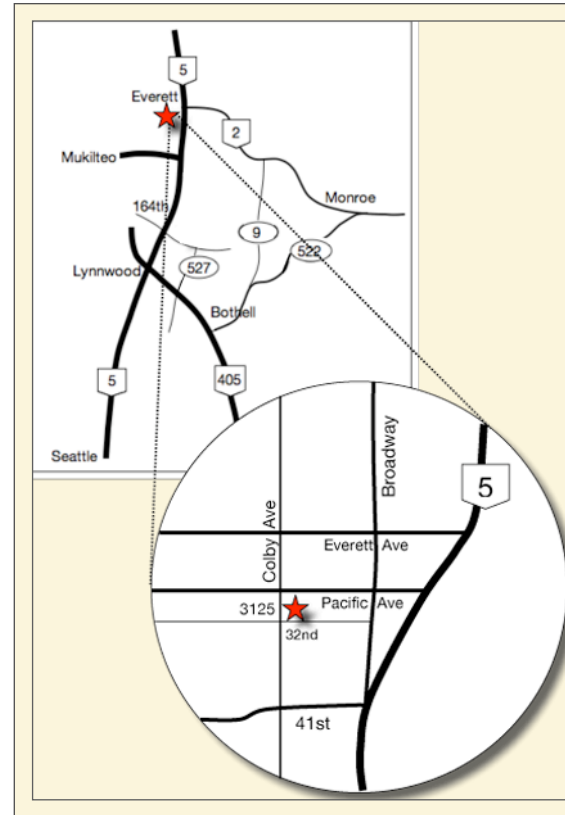
WHAT IF I DO NOTHING

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 mouth 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, but not if sedated (see forms).
- Bring small earbud 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.

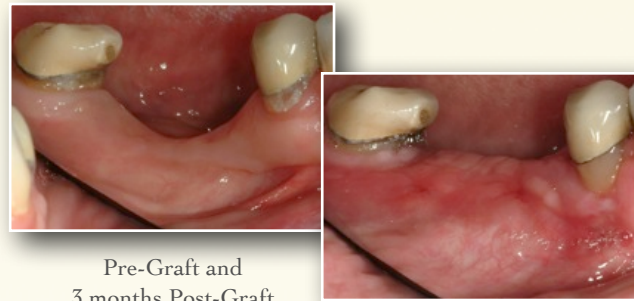
I have read this brochure and understand what may be involved in my treatment. I will have the opportunity to ask questions prior to my surgery.

Patient Signature

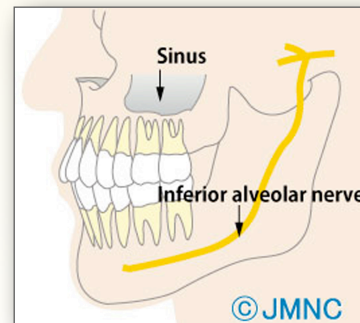
Date

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 covering the recession.



MULTIPLE TOOTH REPLACEMENT

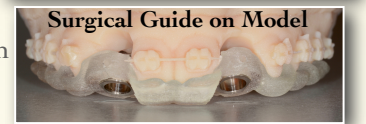
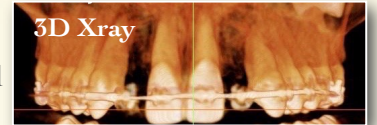
For this patient of Dr. Nicoara's, periodontitis destroyed the gum and bone around a tooth that was supporting a bridge. This caused the loss of one tooth, and the suspended tooth of the bridge, and left a large defect in the bone. Two spaces were replaced with implants, which also required ridge and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



All cases are patients of Dr. Pamela Nicoara.

THE PROCESS

Implants can be a time consuming process, but the long-term benefits outweigh the disadvantage. Initially, a 3D X-ray and digital impression are taken to confirm locations of important anatomy, and fabricate a surgical guide to transfer implant positions planned on the computer to match where it will go in your mouth. Surgery occurs a few weeks later with sutures removed after 2-3 weeks. After 3-4 months of healing the dentist can place the crown on the implant. For back teeth, an interim replacement may not be esthetically necessary. But for front teeth, a temporary tooth replacement in the form an '*essix appliance*' is used to help hide the fact that the tooth is missing.



If a tooth requires removal before implant placement (large teeth or severe infection), two months of socket healing are required prior to implant placement.

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. However, once lost, bone cannot be regained, and if infection is severe enough, the implant may need to be removed.



Healthy Implant



Peri-Implantitis