

DENTAL IMPLANTS - ANOTHER OPTION FOR REPLACING MISSING TEETH

Your teeth are important. People with missing teeth tend to choose foods that are easy to eat over more nutritious ones that are harder to chew. Missing teeth may make it more difficult for you to talk. The extra space gives other teeth room to shift. And let's be honest — the gap where your tooth used to be, can detract from an otherwise beautiful smile.

Dental implants offer a tooth-replacement option that is functional, natural looking and comfortable.

A dental implant is a small device that is surgically placed in the mouth. It fuses to the jawbone in about three to six months and can then serve as the foundation for the replacement tooth, which is usually a dental crown. Implants are often a better alternative than bridges. The procedure for a conventional fixed bridge requires dentists to cut down and crown the teeth on either side of the missing tooth in order to support the bridge.

Best of all, implants last for years. In fact, they currently have a success rate of up to 98 percent over 10 years.

Other advantages of dental implants?

- They provide long-term comfort and stability
- They restore proper chewing function
- They look and feel like natural teeth
- They don't affect bordering teeth

If you need a tooth replaced, ask your dentist if you're a good candidate for a dental implant, as some people may not be. Your dentist can recommend the best treatment options available based on your health and history.