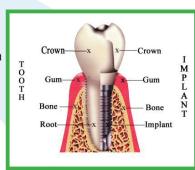


Denial Implant Questions Answered



What Is A Dental Implant?

A dental implant is an artificial tooth root that is placed into your jaw to hold a replacement tooth or bridge. Dental implants may be an option for people who have lost a tooth or teeth due to periodontal disease, an injury, or some other reason. It appear similar to an actual tooth root and are placed within the jaw bone. The bone of the jaw accepts and osseointegrates with the titanium post. Osseointegration refers to the fusion of the implant surface with the surrounding bone.



When Are Dental Implants Used?

Alternatives to dental implants have historically included dental bridges and dentures.

Typically, conventional and cantilever bridges require shaping/grinding of the healthy teeth surrounding a missing tooth. Crowns are then placed on the shaped teeth and attached to an artificial tooth (called a pontic). Because dental bridges do not place any load on the underlying bone, the bone has a tendency to melt away, a natural process called resorption. This can negatively affect the healthy teeth that remain in the mouth.

The more traditional way to solve the problem of missing teeth is to use dentures. In the distant past, dentures have been made from ivory, bone, and porcelain. Although modern plastics allow dentists to provide dentures that are a little more comfortable, many patients still complain from denture pain, especially those patients with a full set of lower dentures. Denture wearers can suffer from pain, discomfort and slippage.

Dental implants have been developed to address the less than ideal characteristics of dental bridges and dentures.

Who Is A Candidate For Dental Implants?

No matter your age, young or mature adult; no matter whether you need to replace one tooth, several teeth or all your teeth, there is a dental implant plan that we can develop for your specific needs. While growing children are the obvious exception, dental implants are the tooth replacement solution of choice for people of all ages, even those with the following health concerns:

Existing Medical Conditions. Most people who have routine dental treatments performed can generally have dental implants placed. We will take the necessary precautions for certain conditions, however, patients with chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes and even osteoporosis may be successful candidates for dental implant treatment.

Gum Disease or Problem Teeth. Almost all implants placed in patients who have lost their teeth to periodontal disease or decay have been successful.

Currently Wearing Partials or Dentures. Implants can replace removable bridges or dentures, or they can be used to attach and stabilize the denture, making it much more comfortable and secure.

Bone Loss. Bone loss is common for people who have lost teeth or had periodontal (gum) disease. With no tooth to "stress" the bone it will eventually resorb or melt away. Half Dental doctors are experienced in bone grafting procedures to ensure an implant can be secured safely and permanently.

Implant tooth replacement in children is usually deferred until their jaw growth is complete. There are, however, some instances when a dental implant may be appropriate, such as when it is part of the child's orthodontic treatment plan. We will partner with your family dentist or orthodontist to guide you in this instance.





Are Dental Implants Safe?

Dental implants are amongst the safest and most successful implantable medical device. Implant placement is an invasive technique but is usually minimally invasive and administered with a local anesthetic. The success of dental implants is typically in the upper 90's%..

Do Dental Implants Work?

The high success rate of dental implants is well documented in the world's scientific literature. Over the last 10 years Half Dental has played an integral role in surgically placing and tracking a large number of implants. These implants then had crowns and dentures placed on them and were very successful outcomes.

At the beginning of 2012, more than 10,000 implants with an overall survival rate of 91% had been placed in our patients. These results are reflected in many other publications worldwide and are further evidence of the predictability of dental implants.

What If I Am A Smoker?

Smoking does lower the success rate of implants, and generally makes healing from any oral surgery procedure more difficult. It doesn't, however, eliminate the possibility of getting dental implants.

What Are Common Complications of Dental Implant Surgery?

As with any surgery, there are inherent risks to dental implant surgery. However, at the hands of our skilled Half Dental doctors a very low incidence of complications can be expected. The most common complication due to dental implant placement is swelling.

There is also a small risk of infection at the surgical site and the possibility that the dental implant will not osseointegrate. These risks can be mitigated with proper oral hygiene and following your surgeon's instructions.

After placing thousands of implants the success rate company wide is 91%.

I Choose The Right Dr. For Dental Implants?

Choosing the right Dr. to perform your dental implant surgery is essential. Improperly placed implants can cause the final restorations to look unnatural, possibly necessitating the surgery be done a 2nd time at added cost and expense.



What Is Your Experience With Dental Implants?

Over the last 10 years Half Dental has played an integral role in surgically placing and tracking a large number of implants.

At the beginning of 2012, more than 10,000 implants with an overall survival rate of 91% had been placed in our patients. This database tracked the following:

- The number of implants placed: > 10,000
- The average period of follow-up: 66 months
- The gender of the patient: 54% female, 46% male
- Age range: 17 to 94 years
- The location of the implant: 52% lower jaw, 48% upper jaw
- Long term survival by jaw: 98% lower jaw, 96% upper jaw

What Does The Consultation Consist Of?

The consultation is a meeting where we will decide together if dental implants are the right treatment option for you. Typically you will come in to our office and fill out the patient history paperwork. Then you will meet with our highly trained nurses to go over your history and any other medical questions they may have.

This is the time when we take X-Rays, usually using our Carestream Cone-beam machine

What Else Is In This Process?

After meeting with our nurses and getting the proper images you will then meet with your doctor. One of our highly trained doctors will talk you through the procedure, answer any questions you may have and actually start to create your custom treatment plan.

Finally, you will meet with our treatment coordinator to set up your appointments and discuss financial and reimbursement arrangements.

Our mission is to provide you with the highest level of care available in a warm and comfortable setting.





How Are Dental Implants Placed?

For most patients, the placement of dental implants involves two surgical procedures. First, implants are placed within your jawbone. For the first two to four months following surgery, the implants are beneath the surface of the gums gradually bonding with the jawbone. You should be able to wear temporary dentures and eat a soft diet during this time. At the same time, your dentist is forming new replacement teeth.

After the implant has bonded to the jawbone, the second phase begins. We will uncover the implants and attach small posts that protrude through the gums and will act as anchors for the artificial teeth. When the artificial teeth are placed, these posts will not be seen.

How Long Will The Process Take?

For most patients, the placement of dental implants involves two surgical procedures. First, implants are placed within your jawbone. For the first two to four months following surgery, the implants are beneath the surface of the gums gradually bonding with the jawbone. You should be able to wear temporary dentures and eat a soft diet during this time. At the same time, your dentist is forming new replacement teeth.

After the implant has bonded to the jawbone, the second phase begins. We will uncover the implants and attach small posts that protrude through the gums and will act as anchors for the artificial teeth. When the artificial teeth are placed, these posts will not be seen. The entire procedure usually takes six to eight months. Most patients experience minimal disruption in their daily life.

Will Dental Implant Placement Hurt?

During the actual surgery you will either be sedated or we will administer local anesthesia. Our patients typically report little to no discomfort during the dental implant placement.

Most patients can manage any post-surgical pain they may experience with over the counter pain medications like Tylenol or Advil. You will leave our office with detailed instruction on post care of your new dental implants, including pain management should you need it.

What Is A Bone Graft and Why Would I Need One?

A dental bone graft is sometimes required when there is not enough bone to support the implant. Often, over time and when a tooth is missing, the underlying bone has a tendency to resorb, or melt away. When there is not enough bone to support the implant our Drs. will perform a bone graft procedure along with the dental implant placement.

With modern technology, we have the ability to regenerate that lost bone to provide enough bone to support an implant. There are many materials available with unique advantages for different applications.





What Is The Recovery Period?

With any surgery, the recovery period varies depending on the procedure and individual patient tolerances. When multiple implants are placed, the question can be answered as follows:

- 1) Prescription pain medication is usually necessary for 2-3 days
- 2) Swelling associated with the procedure varies but usually peaks within 24-36 hours then steadily returns to normal in 3-5 days
- 3) Patients are often able to return to work 2-3 days following the surgery if facial swelling is not a concern
- 4) Normal physical activity and exercise can also resume at about the same time based on personal tolerance

For single implant cases, there is generally no swelling, a minimum of pain requiring pain medication the day of the procedure only, and patients are able to return to their normal routine the following day. In both cases, slight tenderness in the oral tissues may persist for 1-2 weeks as the tissues fully heal.

Do Dental Implants Require Special or Complex Care?

Good oral hygiene is essential to good healing. The night of surgery, use the prescribed Peridex Oral Rinse before bed. The day after surgery, the Peridex should be used twice daily, after breakfast and before bed. Be sure to rinse for at least 30 seconds then spit it out. Warm salt-water rinses (one teaspoon of salt in a cup of warm water) should be used at least four to five times a day, as well, especially after meals.

After your implants have been restored and a crown has been placed it is important to practice excellent oral hygiene. Care of a restored dental implant is much like care for your natural teeth.

Additionally, Half Dental has a long term implant care system in place. Annual visits with our Implant Care Specialist help ensure a problem free future with implants!

How Long Will Dental Implants Last?

With proper care and maintenance you can expect to keep your dental implants for a lifetime.

How Much Do Dental Implants Cost?

At Half Dental single tooth dental implant placement starts at \$1798 (2013 fees).

Does Dental Insurance Cover Pay For Dental Implants?

Insurance companies are starting to recognize dental implants as the standard of care and, as such, cover some of the costs.

At Half Dental it is our policy to collect the fees for implant placement directly from our patients. However, we are happy to submit any and all forms to your insurance company on your behalf. They will then reimburse your directly as per your individual level of coverage.

We are pleased to accept checks, Visa, Master Card, Discover, and American Express. Also, for our patients wishing to finance, we offer wide variety of financing options.







Request a
Dental Implant
Consultation

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