



### What is a dental implant?

A dental implant is an artificial tooth root placed into the jaw to hold a replacement tooth. Dental implants look and feel like natural teeth. With proper care, they can last a lifetime.

### Do I need a dental implant?

A dental implant may be a viable solution for patients who are missing one or more teeth due to injury or infection, such as periodontal disease. Healthy gums and sufficient bone support are necessary to ensure the success of the implant, and a periodontist can help you prepare for a healthy implant process. Ideal implant candidates are typically in good general health and are non-smokers, as smoking can lead to complications.



## Periodontists: The Dental Implant Experts

As specialists in treating gum tissue and the supporting structures of the mouth, periodontists are uniquely qualified to place and maintain dental implants.

Periodontists receive three additional years of training after dental school to master the surgical skills needed to provide predictable and successful dental implant treatment.



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# Dental Implants

## A Permanent and Natural-Looking Solution for Missing Teeth





## The Treatment Process

Your periodontist, in collaboration with your general dentist, will develop a treatment plan unique to your specific needs. The dental implant, often a small titanium post, is first placed into the jawbone where the missing tooth is. Your jawbone will grow around the dental implant through a process called osseointegration. Once the jawbone has fused with the dental implant, an abutment, which attaches to the replacement tooth, will be placed.

Your periodontist will place an abutment that will attach to the replacement tooth. Typically, the replacement tooth is affixed by a general or restorative dentist. The completion time of the entire dental implant process—including extraction, integration of the implant, and periods of healing—can vary depending on your treatment plan.



## Maintenance and Care

Because dental implants look and function like natural teeth, they require the same care. And just like natural teeth, dental implants are at risk for complications. With care from a periodontist and proper at-home maintenance, you can minimize your risk for peri-implant disease, which affects the gum and bone tissue around the implant. To care for your dental implant, the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) recommends brushing twice a day, flossing at least once a day, and receiving regular check-ups including an annual comprehensive periodontal evaluation.

## Advantages of Dental Implants

- **Appearance** — The replacement teeth that dental implants are built to hold will appear identical to your surrounding teeth. No one will know you have a replacement tooth.
- **Reliability** — The success rates of dental implants are highly predictable. When placed by a periodontist and with diligent at-home maintenance, a dental implant can last for life.
- **Confidence** — Because they are secured into the jaw, dental implants function like natural teeth, allowing you to confidently smile, speak, and eat.
- **Comfort** — Dental implants fuse into your jawbone, becoming permanent. Unlike dentures, they will stay comfortably in place and not require messy adhesives.
- **Improved Oral Health** — Because the adjacent teeth are not affected by dental implants, your long-term oral health is not compromised.

# Sample

