
A smiling couple, a man and a woman, are sitting at a table. The man is wearing a light blue t-shirt and the woman is wearing a pink tank top. They are both smiling broadly. On the table in front of them are various items including a whole orange carrot, a knife, and some cherry tomatoes. The background is a bright, indoor setting.

Dental Implants

Tooth Replacement Therapy That Mimics Nature

A hand is holding a small, white-bordered photograph. The photograph shows a smiling woman in a blue top, standing in a group of people whose other members are in silhouette. The background of the photo is dark.

A Guide To Understanding
Treatment Options
For Replacing Missing Teeth



What You Need To Know About NOT Replacing Your Missing Teeth With Dental Implant Therapy

Preserving Your Health And Appearance

The Possible Consequences Of Not Replacing Your Missing Teeth:

- Loss of natural facial contours
- Increased facial wrinkles
- Loss of youthful appearance
- Loss of lip support
- Nose and chin are closer together
- Difficulty chewing
- Digestive problems due to the inability to chew food properly
- Wearing dentures alone may accelerate bone loss

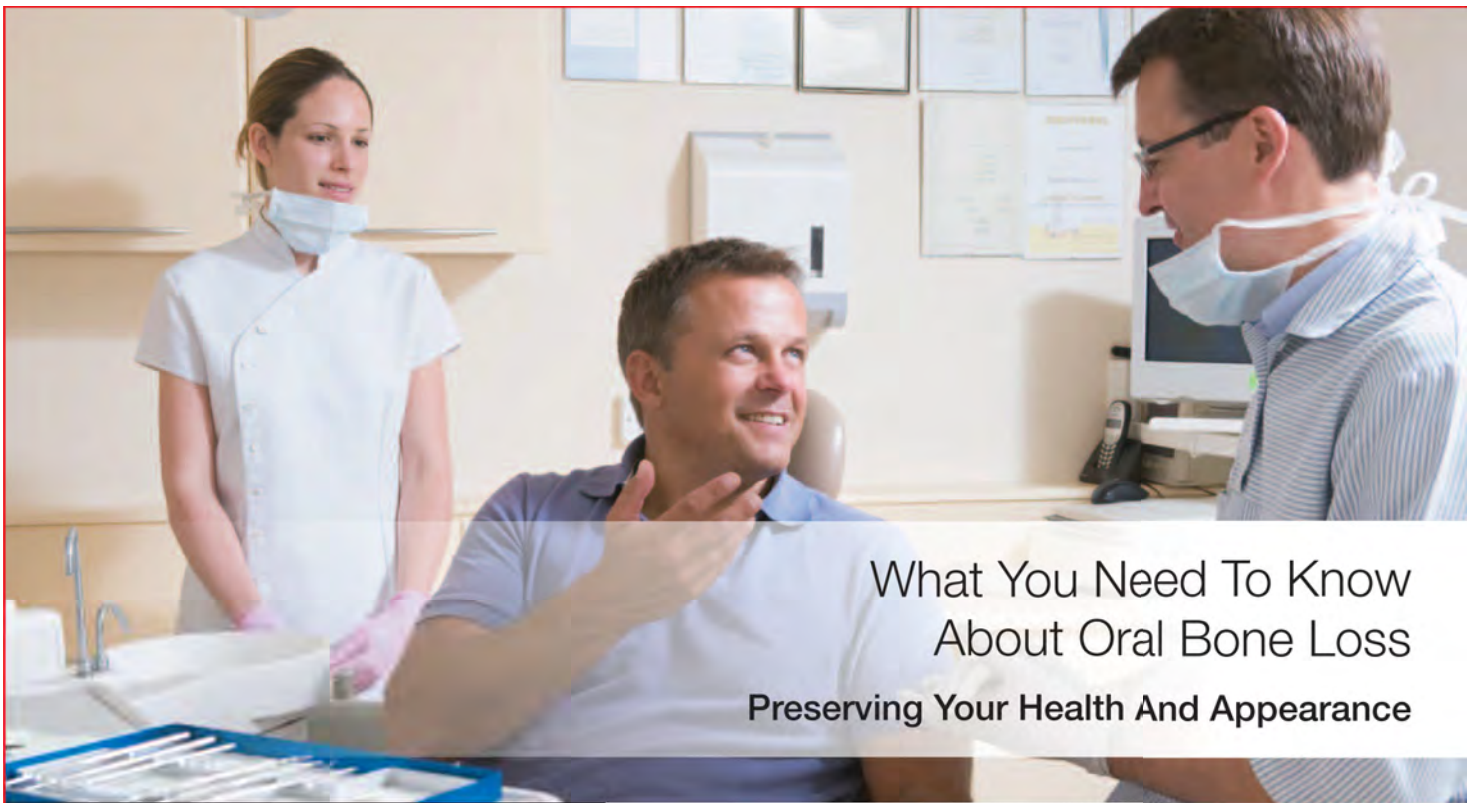
The Possible Advantages Of Replacing Your Missing Teeth With Dental Implants:

- Therapy that mimics nature
- Helps to preserve natural facial contours and aesthetics
- May minimize or reduce bone loss in areas where implants have been placed
- Facilitates proper eating and chewing
- Replacement teeth will not move as do non-implant supported partials and dentures
- Enhances quality of life



BEFORE
Patient before dental implant therapy with a collapsed bite and prematurely aged appearance.

AFTER
Same patient with dental implants, replacement teeth and youthful appearance.



What You Need To Know About Oral Bone Loss

Preserving Your Health And Appearance

- If you are missing teeth, you are at an increased risk for oral bone loss
- Oral bone loss may lead to premature loss of healthy teeth
- Oral bone loss may cause a loss of facial contours
- Loss of facial contours may affect your natural facial appearance
- There are treatments available that may slow or even repair your oral bone loss



A missing tooth creates a bony defect in the jaw.



If left untreated, additional bone loss may lead to additional tooth loss.



Through time, untreated bone loss may create a significantly changed facial appearance and loss of normal function.



Healthy lower jawbone with no missing teeth.



If left untreated, a lower jaw with no teeth may lose bone width, height and density, which may result in undesirable facial changes.



Significant bone loss may increase the chance of a broken jaw.



What Is Dental Implant Therapy? Tooth Replacement Therapy That Mimics Nature

- An advanced therapy available to replace missing teeth
- Dental implants are root replacements for missing teeth
- Replacement teeth are created by your dentist and placed on the foundation provided by dental implants
- These allow you to have the look, feel and function most like natural teeth
- These offer several important advantages for replacing missing teeth

The Possible Advantages Of Dental Implant Therapy:

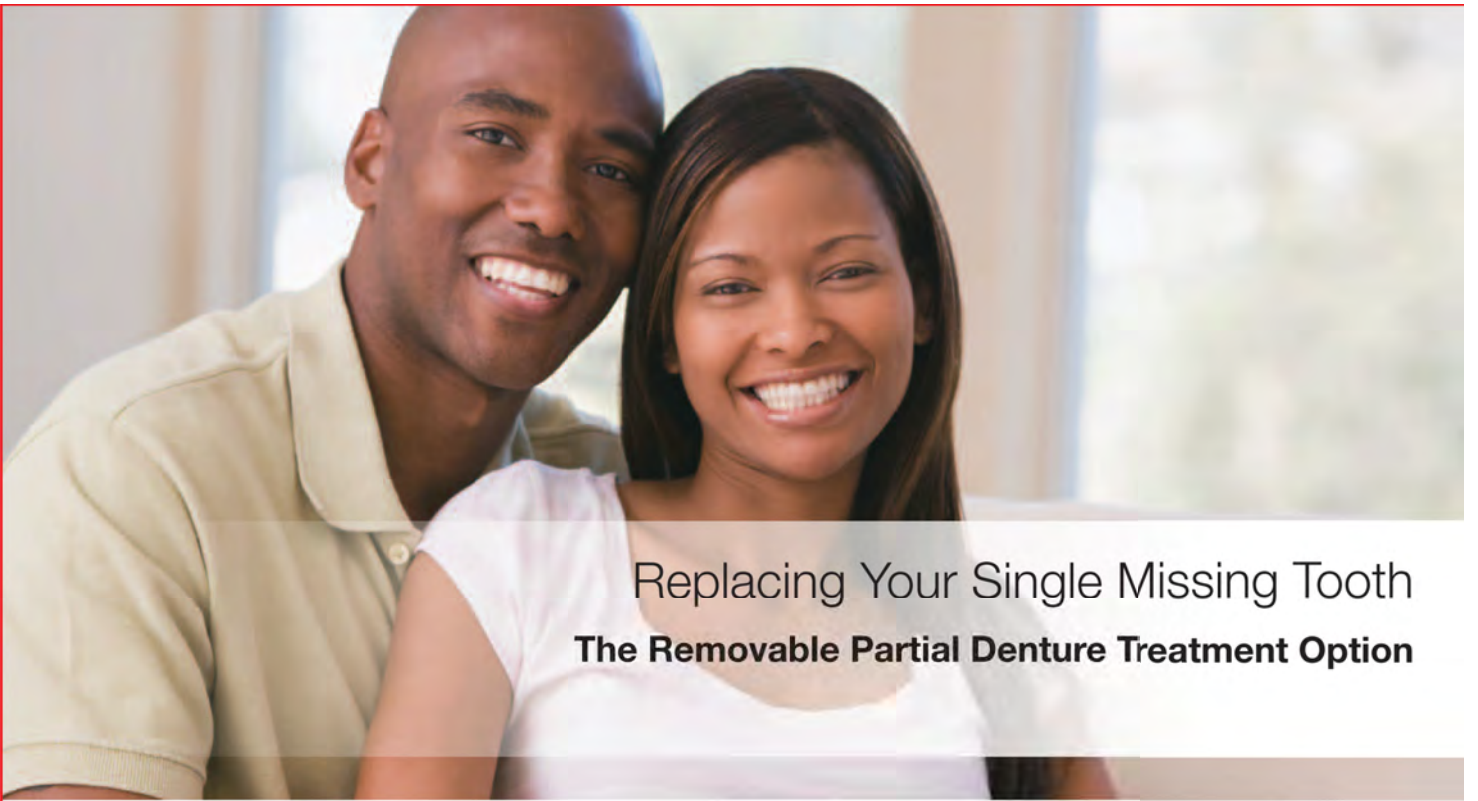
- MINIMIZES oral bone loss
- REDUCES compromise to adjacent healthy teeth
- PRESERVES natural facial contours and appearance
- RESTORES oral function in a manner that most closely resembles natural teeth

How Dental Implants Work:

- Dental implants are made with materials well accepted by the body
- Bone forms a natural mechanical bond with the dental implants
- Dental implants provide a base for your dentist to build your replacement tooth or teeth



A dental implant and implant crown are designed to mimic the look, feel and function of a natural tooth.



Replacing Your Single Missing Tooth The Removable Partial Denture Treatment Option



Removable partial dentures have metal hooks that wrap around existing teeth, which may compromise the health and appearance of those supporting teeth.

The Disadvantages Of A Removable Partial Denture (RPD):

- May move during speech or eating
 - May be physically and psychologically uncomfortable
- Visible metal hooks wrap around surrounding teeth to stabilize the partial
 - Partials may look like "false teeth"
 - These hooks may cause additional tooth loss due to mechanical forces on remaining teeth
- May accelerate bone loss
 - This may negatively affect the width, height and density of oral bone (creating bony defects)
- May be difficult to chew or eat properly
- May require multiple ongoing dentist visits for adjustments and relines
- May need to be replaced every 3-5 years



Replacing Your Single Missing Tooth The Fixed Bridge Treatment Option



Permanent changes to natural teeth must be made to create a fixed bridge to replace a single missing tooth.

The Disadvantages Of A Fixed Bridge:

- Your dentist must grind down adjacent healthy teeth to support a fixed bridge
- This may significantly compromise the life expectancy of support teeth due to permanent changes to tooth structure
- Through time, bridge cement may deteriorate, allowing bacteria to gain access to the remainder of the support teeth
- Bacteria are the primary cause of dental decay and gum disease, which means you may be at an increased risk for additional tooth loss
- This treatment option may affect the width, height and density of oral bone (creating bony defects)
- Gum tissue may lose its shape around areas of the bridge through time (due to oral bone and gum tissue loss), making the fixed bridge look like "false teeth"
- May need to be replaced every 5-7 years



Replacing Your Single Missing Tooth Tooth Replacement Therapy that Mimics Nature




A single missing tooth.



Implant crown in place on top of the foundation provided by the dental implant.

The Possible Advantages And Long-Term Benefits Of A Dental Implant And An Implant Crown:

- An advanced therapy available to replace a missing tooth
- A more predictable solution for a missing tooth compared to other options
- A dental implant provides a foundation for your dentist to place an implant crown (your replacement tooth)
- A dental implant and implant crown are maintained similar to a natural tooth
- A dental implant and implant crown can look, feel and function similar to a natural tooth
- Unlike fixed bridges or removable partial dentures, this treatment option limits the compromise to your surrounding natural teeth
- Oral bone integrates with the dental implant through a natural process
 - May preserve both your oral bone and gum tissue
 - May preserve your natural facial appearance



Replacing Your Multiple Missing Teeth The Removable Partial Denture Treatment Option



Removable partial dentures have metal hooks that wrap around existing teeth, which compromise the health and appearance of those supporting teeth.

The Disadvantages Of A Removable Partial Denture (RPD):

- May move during speech or eating
 - May be physically and psychologically uncomfortable
- Visible metal hooks wrap around surrounding teeth to stabilize partial
 - Partials may look like "false teeth"
 - These hooks may cause additional tooth loss due to mechanical forces on remaining teeth
- May accelerate bone loss
 - This negatively affects the width, height and density of oral bone (creating bony defects)
- May be difficult to chew or eat properly
- May require multiple ongoing dentist visits for adjustments and relines
- May need to be replaced every 3-5 years




Replacing Your Multiple Missing Teeth The Fixed Bridge Treatment Option



Permanent changes to natural teeth must be made to create a fixed bridge to replace multiple missing teeth.

The Disadvantages Of A Fixed Bridge:

- Your dentist must grind down adjacent healthy teeth to support a fixed bridge
- This may compromise the life expectancy of support teeth due to permanent changes to tooth structure
- Through time, bridge cement may deteriorate allowing bacteria to gain access to the remainder of the support teeth
- Bacteria are the primary cause of dental decay and gum disease, which means you may be at an increased risk for additional tooth loss
- This treatment option may affect the width, height and density of oral bone (creating bony defects)
- Gum tissue may lose its shape around areas of the bridge through time (due to oral bone and gum tissue loss), making the fixed bridge look like "false teeth"
- May need to be replaced every 5-7 years



Replacing All Of Your Teeth With a LOCATOR® Design Teeth Replacement Therapy That Mimics Nature



Dental implants are placed.



Abutments are placed on top of the dental implants.



Attachments are placed in your replacement teeth that allow a snap-fit connection to the abutments.



Your replacement teeth are secured in place on top of the foundation provided by the dental implants.

The Possible Advantages And Long-Term Benefits Of Patient-Removable Replacement Teeth:

- The teeth replacement option that gives you the look, feel and function most like natural teeth
- A more predictable solution for missing teeth compared to non-implant supported dentures
- Oral bone integrates with dental implants through a natural process
- Dental implants may help to preserve your oral bone, gum tissue and natural facial contours
- These also provide a foundation on which your dentist may secure your replacement teeth
- These implant-supported replacement teeth are secured to abutments with tiny anchors called attachments
- You have more control over when your replacement teeth are removed
- Only you and your dentist need to know that you have dental-implant-supported replacement teeth
- Easy to care for by brushing, flossing and visiting your dentist for regular check-ups



Replacing All Of Your Teeth With a Bar Design Teeth Replacement Therapy That Mimics Nature



Dental implants are placed.



A custom support bar is secured to the dental implants.



Clip attachments are placed in your replacement teeth.



Your replacement teeth are secured in place on top of the foundation provided by the dental implants.

The Possible Advantages And Long-Term Benefits Of Patient-Removable Replacement Teeth:

- The teeth replacement option that gives you the look, feel and function similar to natural teeth
- A more predictable solution for missing teeth compared to non-implant-supported dentures
- Oral bone integrates with dental implants through a natural process
- Dental implants may help to preserve your oral bone, gum tissue and natural facial contours
- These also provide a foundation on which your dentist may secure your replacement teeth
- These implant-supported replacement teeth are secured to a custom support bar with clip attachments
- You have control over when your replacement teeth are removed
- Only you and your dentist need to know that you have dental-implant-supported replacement teeth
- Easy to care for by brushing, flossing and visiting your dentist for regular check-ups



Replacing All Of Your Teeth With A Fixed-Hybrid Design Teeth Replacement Therapy That Mimics Nature



Dental implants are placed.




Abutments are placed on top of the dental implants.



Your replacement teeth are secured in place on top of the foundation provided by the dental implants with fixation screws only accessible by your dentist.

The Possible Advantages And Long-Term Benefits Of Dentist-Removable Teeth:

- The teeth replacement option that gives you the look, feel and function similar to natural teeth
- A more predictable solution for missing teeth compared to non-implant-supported dentures
- Oral bone integrates with dental implants through a natural process
- Dental implants may help to preserve your oral bone, gum tissue and natural facial contours
- These also provide a foundation on which your dentist may secure your replacement teeth
- These implant-supported replacement teeth are secured to abutments with screws
- Your dentist has control over when your replacement teeth are removed
- Only you and your dentist need to know that you have dental-implant-supported replacement teeth
- Easy to care for by brushing, flossing and visiting your dentist for regular check-ups



DIEM[®] Immediate Teeth Replacement

Replacing Teeth With Dental Implants
The Same Day As The Teeth Are Removed

Having to wait to replace teeth can make you anxious about your appearance or unable to enjoy your usual activities. Now, with a process called DIEM[®]:

- It may be possible to replace your remaining hopeless teeth the same day that these are removed
- Replacing teeth immediately may help to proactively preserve oral bone and gum tissue



Teeth are removed and dental implants are placed.



Abutments are placed on top of the dental implants.



Your replacement teeth are secured in place on top of the foundation provided by the dental implants.

The Possible Advantages And Long-Term Benefits Of The DIEM[®] Process:

- You need never suffer the embarrassment of having to go without teeth
- The teeth replacement option that gives you teeth that look, feel and function similar to natural teeth
- A more predictable solution for missing teeth compared to non-implant-supported dentures
- Oral bone integrates with the dental implants through a natural process
- Dental implants may help to preserve your oral bone, gum tissue and natural facial contours
- These also provide a foundation on which your dentist may secure your replacement teeth
- These implant-supported replacement teeth are secured to abutments with screws
- Your dentist has control over when your replacement teeth are removed
- Only you and your dentist need to know that you have dental-implant-supported replacement teeth
- Easy to care for by brushing, flossing and visiting your dentist for regular check-ups



Financial Considerations Reasons to Invest in Yourself

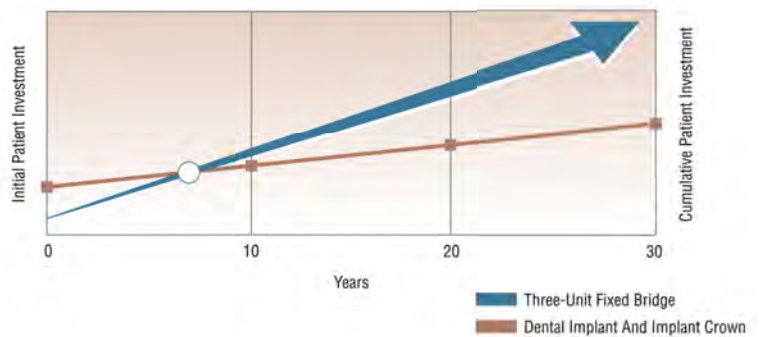
Dental Implants And Replacement Teeth May Provide:

- Better health
- Enhanced appearance
- Greater self confidence
- Improved quality of life

A young patient replacing a single missing tooth with a three-unit fixed bridge is likely to receive three or more prostheses throughout a lifetime, with recurrent decay and tooth fracture as major reasons for replacement.¹

Patient Cost For Single-Tooth Replacements

The cost differential of a single-tooth dental implant and implant crown versus a three-unit fixed bridge to replace a single missing tooth.¹



A single-tooth dental implant and implant crown may initially cost more than the three-unit fixed bridge, but this cost differential will be equalized in about seven years.²

1. Priest, GF, Priest JE. The Economics Of Implants For Single Missing Teeth. Dental Economics 2004;94(5):130-138.

2. Blackwell, R, Lowe, R, Morris, G, Priest, G, Implant Economics, A Supplement To Dental Practice Report, September 2004.