

Dental Implants

Dental implants offer an excellent long term tooth replacement solution for many patients. This brochure provides general information only and is not intended to be a comprehensive discussion on dental implants or specific patient needs.

Losing one or more teeth can have a major impact on quality of life. Your smile, your bite, and even your ability to eat can be negatively affected by tooth loss.

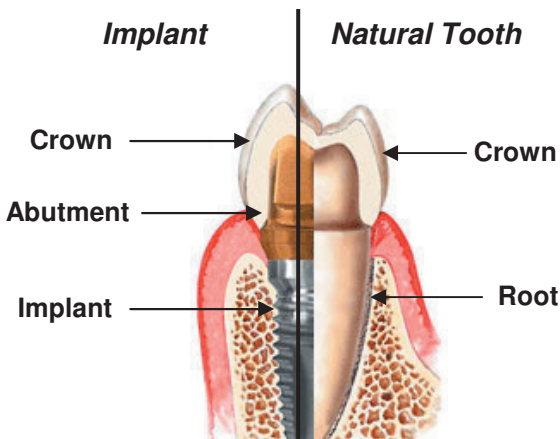
The primary goal of periodontal therapy is to save a tooth whenever possible; however, with hopeless teeth or teeth lost due to an accident, a periodontist's goal is to guide you to the best tooth replacement option for you.

In this newsletter, we will review why implants are an excellent choice for many patients needing tooth replacement.

What are dental implants?

Dental implants are titanium posts that, when placed in bone, can be used to replace a single tooth, multiple teeth, or, with the use of special attachments, to stabilize a denture.

Advances in implant surface technology allow the surrounding bone to intimately lock the implant in place. Since this material is biocompatible, the body will not "reject" an implant.

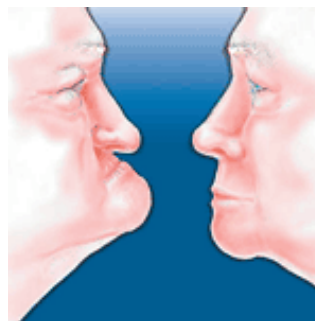
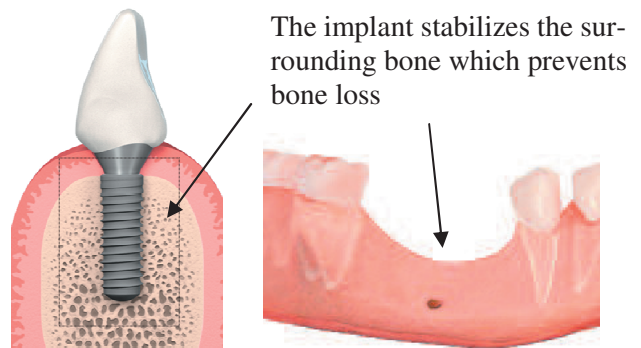


Why dental implants?

Dental implants, the closest thing to nature's design, offer hope for re-creating a healthy, new and confident smile. They are intended to be a long lasting solution for tooth loss.

After an extraction, the bone previously surrounding the tooth will quickly remodel or "melt away" during healing, leaving a concavity or "dip" in the bone (both vertically and horizontally). Maintaining the bone after an extraction is critical in helping to support the lips and cheeks, thus preventing signs of premature aging.

Dental implants help stabilize and prevent bone loss through their functional use. Since bone integrates and bonds to an implant, a strong foundation is made which can support various tooth / teeth replacement options.



Maintaining bone with dental implants prevents lips and cheeks from collapsing inward and prevents the chin from protruding forward.

Benefits of Implants

Improved Quality of Life:

Function, look, and feel like natural teeth.
No more need for denture adhesives.
Provide confidence when smiling, speaking, and eating which restores self-esteem.

Better Chewing Function:

Stabilize dentures which makes chewing and eating easier.
Better nutrition = Better health.

Improved Ability to Taste Food:

By locking in a denture, an implant eliminates the need for the acrylic portion of a denture that covers the roof of the mouth, thus allowing a full appreciation of the taste of food.

Support of Facial Features to Prevent Premature Aging:

Collapsing cheeks and lips can age a person 10 –20 years. Since implants preserve bone, your natural facial contours are supported which may prevent certain wrinkles.

No Impact on Adjacent Teeth, Unlike a Bridge:

Implants represent a conservative treatment option. Since the adjacent teeth are left untouched, their long term health is unchanged.
Removable partial dentures induce back and forth forces on teeth that eventually damage the supporting teeth, causing the partial denture to become loose.

Implants Never Decay or Require a Root Canal.

The Body Will Not Reject an Implant.

Scientifically Proven Long-term Success for People of Any Age:

The success rate in healthy patients regardless of age is ~ 98%.
The success rate in patients with health concerns and/or smokers is ~ 94%.
Implants have a track record of lasting 30+ years.
A bridge usually lasts 7-10 years.
Partials and dentures are functional for an average of only 5 years

Am I a Candidate for Implants?

Most patients are excellent candidates for implants. Your periodontist will review various factors that influence your candidacy and your implant treatment options. Important factors include (but are not limited to) the following:

Bone quality and quantity	Overall Medical Health
Gum tissue quality and quantity	Smoking
Patient Esthetic Expectations	Diabetes
Position of vital structures (e.g., nerves, sinuses)	Bisphosphonate use for Osteopenia/Osteoporosis
Health of the adjacent teeth	Infection present

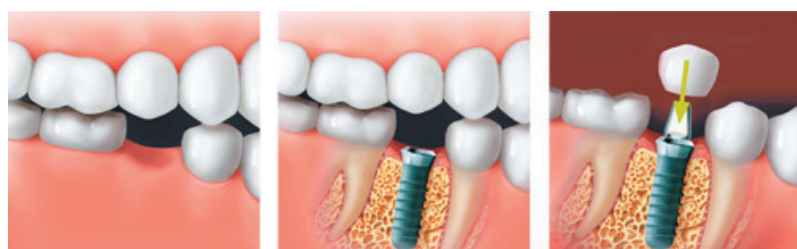
Treatment Options with Dental Implants

Single tooth replacement:

A crown attached to an implant allows the replacement of a missing tooth.

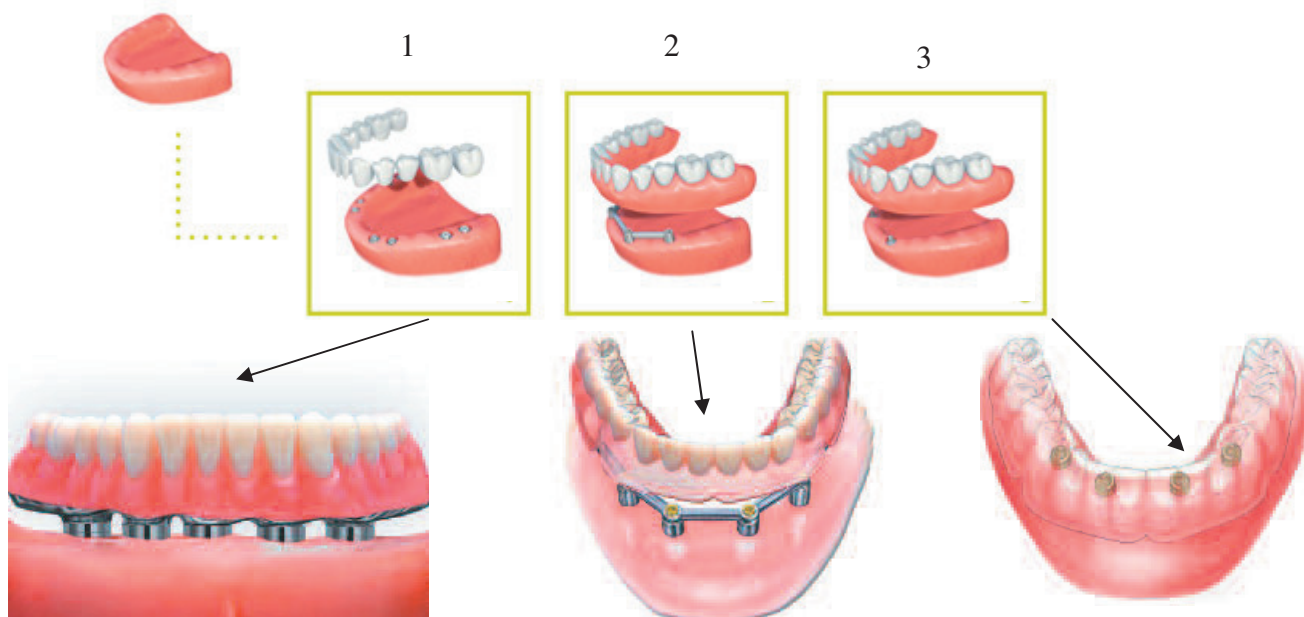


With a bridge, the two healthy adjacent teeth are cut down to secure the bridge in place. This results in a loss of natural tooth structure and the health of these teeth are negatively impacted. Because the bridge does not transmit chewing forces to the jaw bone, bone deterioration will occur.



The dental implant replaces the missing tooth root. The healthy adjacent teeth remain completely intact and are not cut down. The long term health of these teeth does not change.

1. Implant **supported fixed** dentures: *permanent* fixtures that serve as replacement teeth.
2. Implant **bar supported** dentures: *secured* to a custom support bar with clip attachments.
3. Implant **retained** dentures: *secured* in place onto two or more implants by attachments.



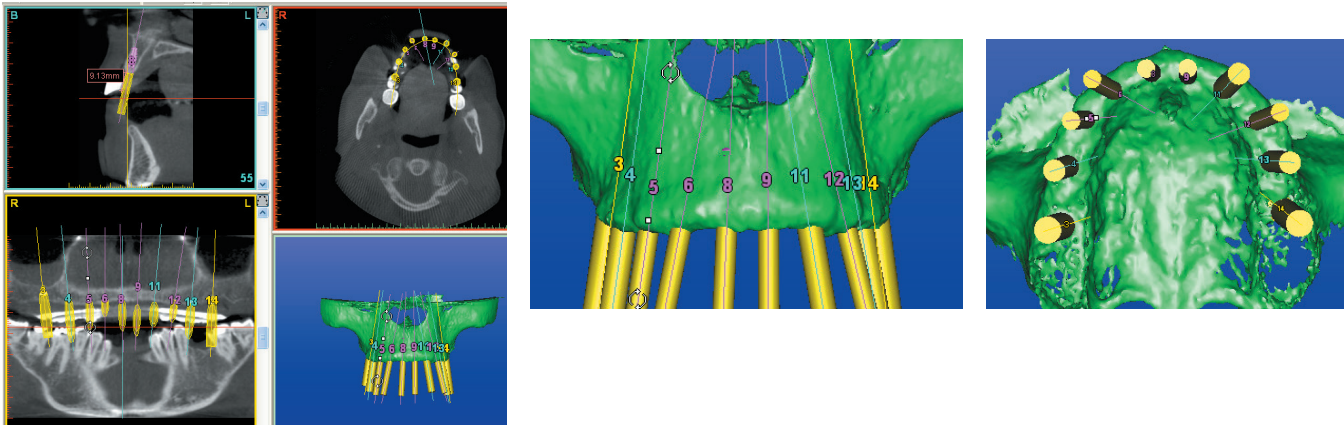
1. Supported Fixed Dentures:
Best Retention

2. Bar supported dentures:
Better Retention

3. Retained Dentures:
Good Retention

Is 3-D Imaging Necessary?

X-rays and panographs often provide all the information necessary to determine candidacy for implants. Since ***bone quantity and quality*** are significant factors in implant placement, 3-D imaging is sometimes necessary to examine implant sites more thoroughly and from multiple angles. In fact, with advanced imaging software, we can place implants in a ***virtual rendering*** of your jaws to assess predictability of treatment. 3-D imaging is sometimes needed for a single implant and more likely necessary for multiple implants.



How Long Will Treatment Take?

In a ***healed extraction site*** or in an ***immediate implant placement site*** (at the time of extraction), an implant typically requires 6-12 weeks of healing to integrate with the bone. If a tooth requires extraction and the implant cannot be placed immediately, an additional 3 months of healing may be needed. Based on the situation, implant healing/treatment time ranges from ***6 weeks to 6 months***. A few situations exist where the healing time may extend beyond 6 months.

After complete healing of the implant(s), the patient will return to their dentist who will prepare, fabricate and deliver the prosthetic teeth to be supported by the implant(s). Each patient should consult with their dentist regarding the costs and timing of this restorative phase.

At CharlottePerio, our doctors specialize in all aspects of the surgical phase of implant dentistry including teeth extraction, bone grafting and implant placement. Our doctors are also experts in comprehensive diagnosis and treatment planning tooth replacement options, including dental implants. They will work directly with your dentist through all phases of your care and will also help guide you through your treatment.

For additional information, please visit our website, www.charlotteperio.com or call 704.365.0123 to schedule an appointment.



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