Common Procedures

Dental implant

Also known as: Endosseous implant • Dental fixture

Why get implants?

Did you know?

Over 3 million Americans have dental implants — and this number is growing by half a million a year.

American Academy of Implant Dentistry

Replacements for natural teeth and roots, dental implants are an alternative to dentures and bridges. Implants are "anchored" in the jaw, offering comfort and stability.

Advantages

- Improve chewing and speech ability
- Restore natural appearance
- Permanent
- 85–90% effective
- Slow down bone loss

Am I a good candidate for implants?

To be an ideal candidate for implants, you must have:

- good general health
- healthy gums
- sufficient bone structure
- personal commitment to good oral hygiene

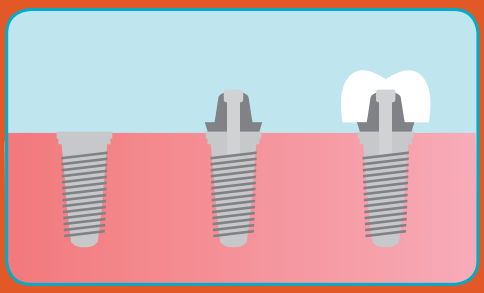
Implants might not be the right option if you:

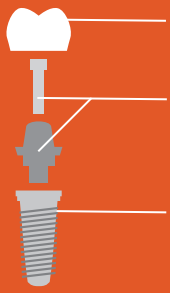
- smoke
- clench or grind your teeth
- have diabetes

Did you know?

The first dental implant was performed on Gösta Larsson in 1965. Carried out in Gothenburg, Sweden, the procedure was a major success, establishing "osseointegration" in the world of dentistry and giving Larsson a set of teeth that lasted for the rest of his life.

Anatomy of an implant





Crown
(replacement tooth)

Abutment
(connector)

Implant body
(artificial root)

How does the process work?

Placement of dental implants involves a multi-step process that can take several months to a year.

- First, the dentist surgically places the implant body, without the replacement tooth, directly into the jawbone. The bone fuses to the metal, in a process called osseointegration. During this time, you might wear a temporary crown, denture or bridge.
- Next, as soon as the bone has fused to the implant, the connecting piece (abutment) is attached.
- Finally, the crown is attached.

Are implants worth the cost?

Although the cost of implants is significantly higher than that of dentures and bridges, they come with some advantages:

- With proper care, implants can last a lifetime, making them a worthwhile investment.
- Unlike removable prosthetics like dentures, implants are a permanent fixture in your mouth, so you won't ever be caught without your teeth.
- Because they're permanent, implants won't slip during chewing or speaking, giving you the look, feel and function of real teeth.

Not all plans cover implants, so check your plan information for details about your coverage. To find out how much implants will cost you, ask your dentist for a pre-treatment estimate. This free service lets you know up front how much your Delta Dental plan will pay and how much your out-of-pocket expense will be.

Want to know more?

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