

Implant Awareness Education

- Dental implants are substitute tooth roots.
- They provide virtually the same function as natural tooth roots
- Stimulate bone growth and preserve the bone.
- It then provides a stable foundation for replacement teeth that look, feel & function like natural teeth.”
- Your teeth were designed to last a lifetime, but sometimes they don't! Replacing missing teeth is important to your general health and to the health of your other teeth. Not only do you lose chewing ability when a tooth is lost, but un-replaced teeth can cause other teeth to be lost, tipped or crowded and create subsequent problems. Also, there are the obvious problems of poor appearance and loss of self-esteem caused by one or more missing teeth.
- Dental implants should always be considered as an option to replace a failing or missing tooth. Replacement of lost teeth with dental implants has been used for treating missing teeth for more than 40 years and is recognized as an effective treatment choice. Treatment is considered more or as predictable than bridgework, resin bonded bridges and endodontic treatment.

Advantages

- Preserves bone at site (women over 40 will especially hear this)
- Maintains integrity of facial structures (prevents facial structure collapse)
- Look, feel and function like natural teeth
- Adjacent teeth not compromised
- Does not decay
- Long term esthetics
- Increased overall health (biting, chewing, digestion)
- Overall increased health and well being because nutrition and digestion are improved (Increased chewing surface)
- Definitive treatment: successfully Osseo-integrated implants rarely need to be replaced
- Over-dentures attach to implants for stability and comfort
- Improved speech
- Premature aging is avoided
- Improved appearance & esthetics
- Improved health, function & comfort
- Feeling “whole” again
- Improved self confidence
- Enhanced quality of life
- Prevents visible defects in the bone when anterior teeth are missing

- Implant supported teeth look like natural teeth
- Long-term esthetics are better with implant supported replacement teeth than with traditional bridges, partials and dentures
- Increased stability, creating a feeling of security and confidence. (compared to partials and dentures)
- Pain and discomfort of partials and dentures is eliminated
- The mouth is restored to as close as possible to its natural (original) state
- Longer term benefits = cost effective treatment
- Restore patients to health and function for the longest possible time
- Rarely has to be replaced
- Generally more cost effective long-term
- Improves patient comfort
- Preserves bone/prevents bone resorption
- Reduces need for additional future treatment
- Better long-term prognosis/more permanent solution
- Better long-term esthetics
- Designed to last your lifetime (or decades)

Traditional Dental Treatment bridges and partials

- Compromise long term health of adjacent teeth
 - Cement deteriorates and abutments can decay
 - Denture hooks
- Does not preserve bone
- Difficult to clean, may lead to perio disease
- Partial and dentures accelerate bone resorption

Anything less than the standard of care is a compromise of treatment.

The function of tooth roots

- Stimulate bone growth

The consequences of missing teeth

- Bone resumption
- Potential loss of adjacent teeth
- Teeth drifting into edentulous site
- Extrusion / hyper-eruption of opposing teeth
- Disadvantages of conventional tooth replacement:
 - Life expectancy 7-10 years
 - Bridges & partials compromise long-term health of adjacent teeth
 - Does not preserve bone
 - Partial & dentures accelerate bone resorption
- Partial replaced every 3-5 yrs.
- Bridges every 7-10 years. (may need to include additionally compromised teeth with each replacement)
- Investment in overall health, appearance and well being

Layman's terminology: Advantages

- Helps to maintain the shape of the face.
- Will not decay
- Helps to preserve the bone in the jaw
- Removes the need to grind down healthy teeth for a bridge. (specifically the hard decay resistant enamel)
- Can eliminate the pain of ill-fitting partials and dentures.
- Makes replacement teeth stable for eating and smiling with confidence.
- Increased chewing surface
- Is the closest possible replacement to natural teeth

Compromises of Traditional Replacements

- Won't look as natural
- Won't last as long
- Tougher to clean (threader)
- Vulnerable to decay if cement washes out
- Won't feel like a natural bite (flex)
- Won't maintain the bone