

Missing Teeth?

Consumer Education Information

Volume 2

A Third Set of Teeth

Many Americans are finding out to their delight that tooth loss no longer has to be permanent. We all grew up with an understanding that first we would have baby teeth and then we would receive our adult teeth. While it was normal to lose out baby teeth over the course of our childhood, permanent teeth were to be maintained and retained for a lifetime.

Immediate Implants at the Time of Tooth Loss

Unfortunately, that expectation has not necessarily been true for approximately 40-45 million Americans who are missing some adult teeth. Millions of people have had the benefit of bridges (a series of crowns that fill in the spaces of missing teeth) or dentures to replace teeth, and these are still a great choice for many patients that are missing teeth.

Today, with dental implants, we have the opportunity to have a third set of teeth. Patients that have lost one, two or more teeth are finding that dental implants offer the best solutions for the patient. Dental implants are as close to natural teeth as possible.

Dental implants are titanium cylinders that can be placed into the jawbone in a minor and relatively painless surgical procedure. For instance, a patient

who needs a tooth extracted for any reason today can often have what is called an "immediate implant" placed at the same time as the extraction. This eliminates the need for a separate implant placement procedure and begins the healing process almost immediately.

While every patient is not a candidate for an immediate implant, those that can take advantage of this opportunity will have less bone shrinkage or bone loss following an extraction.

Most patients do not realize that following an extraction the actual healing process results in loss of jawbone height and width.

By placing an immediate implant, a patient does not typically lose bone around the area where the tooth has been removed.

While there is a period of time following the placement of any implant during which healing takes place, an immediate implant significantly speeds up the implant process. The result is a new permanent replacement tooth root that will have a post and crown placed on it. Your friends will never be aware that it is not your natural tooth.

Options for a Third Set of Teeth



Single Tooth Replacement

Posterior Replacement



Anterior Replacement

Full Lower Replacement



Full Upper Replacement

Who is a Candidate for Dental Implants?

Almost anyone that is missing teeth is a candidate for dental implants. Regardless of age, physical condition, or other factors, the good news is that almost everyone can benefit from dental implants.

In addition to the basic dental implant, there are a host of services that can make implants even more successful depending on a patient's situation. For example, if necessary, bone can be added to the mouth. This results in sufficient bone for implants to be placed and offers a wonderful opportunity for patients who do not have sufficient bone to have implants placed. Patients who would not have been candidates for dental implants in the past can have an excellent result today!

Why Should a Patient Consider Dental Implants?

Dental implants allow many people to have a better quality of life. The loss of your natural teeth often results in facial structure collapse and loss of confidence. *see photos*

So feel free to talk with your dentist about the potential of dental implants for your unique situation. Millions of patients worldwide are now benefiting tremendously from the enhanced quality of life that dental implants provide. As the field of implant dentistry continues to advance, there are more and more options available to patients. A perfect smile is possible!

Dental Implants Mean Satisfied Patients



"I can't begin to tell you how my dental implants have changed my life. The impact is double to triple what I expected!"

At age 21, Kim Todd lost six lower front teeth in an automobile accident. An implant retained fixed bridge has enabled Kim to once again enjoy life!

Are you a candidate for dental implants?

- Have you lost any or more teeth?
- Are you fed up with your partial denture or over denture?
- Is your denture on the lower jaw loose?
- Have you lost bone in the areas of a tooth extraction?
- Are you considering a dental restoration with bridge work but concerned about the stress on the integrity of the adjacent teeth?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, you should ask your dentist about "The Dental Implant Solution".



facial structure collapse



confidence smile

For more information, Please contact our office.

For online information, visit www.nobelbiocare.com/international/patients/index.asp