

## Frequently Asked Questions About Dental Implants

**Q: Is the surgery for placing a dental implant painful?**

A: No, it is usually done under local anesthesia in your dentist's office, in just the same way as a filling.

**Q: What can I expect after the anesthesia wears off?**

A: Generally there are no open wounds with implant surgery so healing is quite quick and un-eventful. You can expect some minor discomfort, but that can generally be managed with medication such as ibuprofen or similar medication in prescription strength.

**Q: How long does it take to place dental implants?**

A: It depends on the number and location of the implants, but simple, uncomplicated dental implant placement usually takes less than an hour.

**Q: What about eating after implant surgery?**

A: It's generally important to avoid exposing any recent surgical site in the mouth to food if possible. A good rule of thumb is to eat soft, nutritious foods and keep well hydrated.

**Q: How long does healing and construction of the replacement teeth (implant crowns) take?**

A: The entire process usually takes about two to four months, depending on your treatment plan. There are two main phases: First the implants have to heal by fusing to the bone, and then the tooth replacement restorations have to be fabricated and attached.

**Q: How long do dental implants last?**

A: Once a dental implant has fused to the bone successfully and it is functional, it should last many years if cared for properly. Generally it is a permanent restoration. Many implants have now been in place for more than 40 years.

**Q: Can my body reject a dental implant, and if so what then?**

A: Rejection of dental implants extraordinarily rare, but it can happen. However, if this happens, it is simply removed and the site is allowed to heal.

**Q: Are dental implants expensive?**

A: Expense is always relative. For example, dental implants may be a little more expensive than fixed bridgework to place initially, but since they last so much longer, over time they are much more cost-effective.

**Q: Are dental implants covered by insurance?**

A: Like most elective procedures, dental implants are not covered by most dental insurance plans. Your dentist may offer payment plan options to ensure you get the best treatment available.



In our on-going efforts to better serve our patients, Stellar Dental Care is pleased to announce the opening of our dedicated Implant Center located in our Union Road Office.

### Five Convenient Offices To Serve You:

**4154 McKinley Pkwy.**

*Near McKinley Mall*

**716.649.2288**

**7500 Transit Road**

*Near Eastern Hills Mall*

**716.632.5555**

**2929 Sheridan Dr.**

*Near Boulevard Mall*

**716.831.8844**

**3557 Union Road**

*Near Galleria Mall*

**716.651.0099**

**1165 French Road**

*Cheektowaga, Corner of Borden Road*

**716.274.7777**

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## Dental Implants...

The Right Fit  
For You



# Dental Implants...

Changing the face of dentistry over the last 25 years.

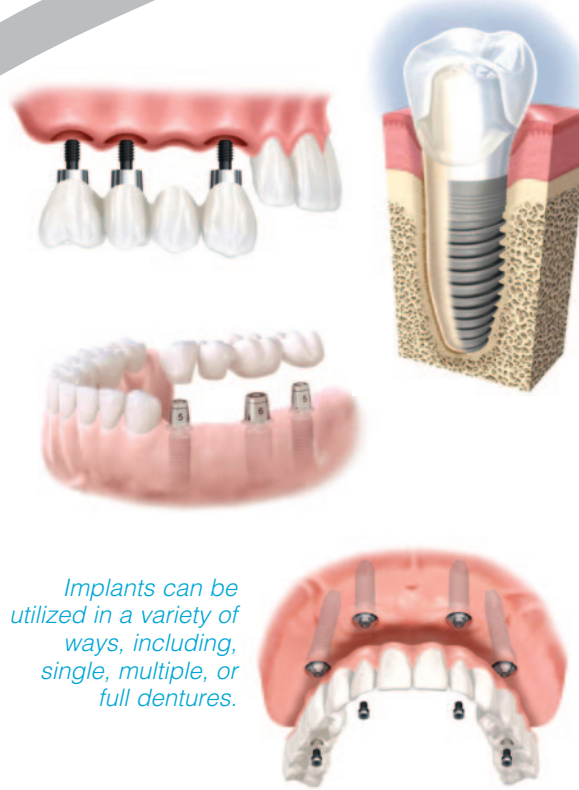
Replacing missing teeth is important to your overall health as well as to the health of your other teeth. You don't only lose chewing capacity when you lose a tooth, but not replacing lost teeth can cause your other teeth to be lost, tipped or crowded and create additional problems. Plus, there are also the obvious problems of poor appearance as well as loss of self-esteem caused by one or more missing teeth.

Dental implants are a great way to replace missing teeth and have the added advantage of providing a permanent solution to having removable partials, bridges or complete dentures.

## A Permanent Solution

A dental implant consists of a small titanium screw that serves as the replacement for the root portion of a missing natural tooth, along with a crown or series of crowns, or even a complete denture. Dental implants are extremely versatile and can be placed in either the upper or lower jaws. Titanium's special property of fusing to bone, called osseointegration ("osseo" – bone; "integration" – fusion or joining with), is the biological basis of dental implant success.

Because of this, dental implants can be used as a long-term solution for replacing single or multiple missing teeth.



*Implants can be utilized in a variety of ways, including, single, multiple, or full dentures.*

## Single Tooth Replacement

For a single tooth, a titanium implant is placed in the jaw bone to replace the root and allowed to heal. Next, a second piece, called an abutment, is secured to the implant with a screw secured to an internal thread on the implant. The actual tooth replacement, the dental crown, is secured to the abutment with dental cement.

## Multiple Tooth Replacement

In multiple tooth replacement, the same concepts used in single tooth replacement apply. But in this case, two or more implants may replace many teeth. The fixture is referred to as an implant supported bridge or implant supported fixed partial denture.

## Restoring An Entire Arch of Teeth

To restore an entire arch of teeth, the restoration can be either fixed or removable. In a fixed complete denture, a denture with a metal substructure is attached to four or more implants.

A removable denture can also be created, where the implants have a small button or ball abutment and the denture houses an adapter which grabs the abutment. In this case, the denture can be removed with finger pressure by the wearer.

## Am I a Candidate For Dental Implants?

If you have lost teeth you most likely are a candidate for dental implants. It is important that you are in good health, however, you should be aware that there are some conditions and diseases that can affect whether dental implants are right for you. It is important to let your dental surgeon know all about your medical status (past and present) along with all medications you are taking. Where and how implants are placed requires a detailed assessment of your individual situation. Planning with your dental professionals will insure that you are making the proper decision regarding implants.

## What Type of Maintenance Do Dental Implants Require?

Implant crowns and other prosthetic tooth replacements are made to be remarkably failsafe systems. They are removable and replaceable only by your dentist. If damage or wear to the crown does occur, replacement can be accomplished without affecting the implant(s) or attachment to the bone.

Like natural teeth, implants do require maintenance. It is important to practice good daily oral hygiene, including brushing and flossing. It is also important to see your dentist and dental hygienist. Special instruments are required to clean your dental implants to prevent damage the metal surface beneath the gum tissues. Your dentist will monitor your implants to make sure the integrity is stable, and that the implant crowns, bridgework or dentures are functioning properly.