



DENTAL IMPLANTS

Smiles by Mia offers dental implant treatments to help you replace missing teeth so that your smile can look natural and beautiful again.

The key benefit of dental implants over other tooth replacement systems is that an implant connects directly to the jawbone. It's obviously not the same as the original connection, but functions just the same. When a tooth is lost, bone loss will eventually occur in that region because the root is no longer stimulating and stabilizing the bone. By using titanium (which biochemically joins to bone) to replace the root, you get a bond that more accurately replicates the one found in nature.

WHEN YOU LOSE A TOOTH

When you lose a tooth, especially a back tooth, you may feel you don't need to replace it, since no one can see that it's missing, and you have plenty of other teeth. However, there is more bone loss going on under the surface once a tooth is lost. Surrounding each tooth is an alveolar bone that supports the tooth and when the tooth is lost, that bone basically melts away. This is why people who have lost most of their teeth and are not wearing dentures appear to have a caved-in appearance to their mouths.

Besides causing damage to the immediate area, tooth loss affects remaining teeth as well. Teeth create a structure for the face and their loss can shift the surrounding teeth, creating aesthetic issues and bite problems. A lost tooth can also affect facial structures such as the jaw, muscles, jaw joints, and even the skin. If several teeth are lost, it's not uncommon to suffer from social consequences and poor nutrition. When the supporting alveolar bone melts away, it's gone for good, but a Dr. Mia or a specialist can recreate bone to fuse with and support an implant through grafting. This is wonderful news, but it is still best to have a dental implant as soon as possible after the tooth is lost for the most predictable aesthetic outcome.

TIMELINE

Replacing a tooth with an implant and a dental crown is not a one-day procedure. The implant needs time to properly adhere to the bone and create a healthy fusion before the crown can be attached and full bite force can be applied. In most cases, it will take a few months to complete the process. Due to the timeline, dental implants are actually a series of steps; each is very different and may require an individual specialist.

THE PARTS OF A DENTAL IMPLANT

THE IMPLANT

A dental implant is a small cylindrical shaped post with threads like a screw that is made of biocompatible titanium. The implant is strategically and surgically implanted into the jaw bone and acts as a prosthetic root. It fuses with jaw bone creating a lasting bond and a "root" that is stable and fixed within the jaw.

THE RESTORATION

After the implant is fused to the jaw and is stable, an implant crown, bridge, or denture can be placed on top of the implant to replace the missing teeth.





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BENEFITS OF DENTAL IMPLANTS

Dental implants are the ideal solution for replacing missing teeth. They restore proper function and provide exceptional aesthetic results. Made from high-quality dental materials; dental implants look, function and feel just like your natural teeth. Dental implants are easy to clean, cavity free, they keep the bone from resorbing and prevent the adjacent teeth from shifting.

IMPLANTS VS. BRIDGES

Traditionally, the only way to replace a missing tooth was with a dental bridge. However, with a bridge the teeth next to the missing tooth has to be shaved down and be connected together. Dental bridges are hard to floss and keep clean, so they often get cavities under them and frequently need to be replaced. With a dental implant, there is no need to shave down or connect the adjacent teeth. You are simply replacing a natural tooth that was extracted with a titanium metal tooth. Another advantage of an implant vs. a bridge is that the implant will never get cavities and if the crown breaks, it can be removed from the implant and fixed outside of your mouth without any pain or discomfort.

DENTURES VS. DENTAL IMPLANTS

Using dental implants to secure a dental restoration for missing teeth can improve the appearance of your smile. Traditional dentures can appear too big, bulky or loose. Dentures can slip while eating or speaking causing embarrassment. Patients feel self-conscious of their smile and hide their teeth behind their lips or hands. Dental implants provide added bite stability and support long-term oral health. Implant secured dentures help stabilize the jawbone.

PREVENTING FACIAL RECESSION

Missing teeth can lead to facial sagging and premature aging. Without the support of the tooth root, the jaw bone begins to break down. As the jawbone weakens, the facial structure can become compromised. Patients with missing teeth often see a gradual shifting of their jawline.

Dental implants stimulate natural bone regeneration and prevent the deterioration and regression of the jawline. Implants are surgically implanted into the jaw and help to support the structure of the face and bite. Replacing missing teeth with dental implants can prevent facial sagging and help to make patients look and feel younger.

If you have a missing tooth or multiple missing teeth and would like to replace them with implants, please call Smiles by Mia at (703) 323-1300 to schedule a free consultation today!!

