

# Dental Implants



It's not vanity, it's healthy

# The Importance of Replacement

There are lots of reasons why people lose teeth – an altercation with an elbow during soccer, a trip up the stairs, a super-strength popcorn kernel, maybe some not-so diligent oral hygiene, or sometimes age. Whatever your reason, it's important to replace those teeth, even if no one can see them.

**70%**

Of people in the United States are missing at least one tooth.

Most people recognize the need of filling a cavity. Cavities lead to infections, infections lead to root canals or tooth loss. Simple. But the importance of replacing lost teeth is often not realized - losing just one tooth can lead to losing more teeth. For many, especially for those on a tight budget, replacing teeth that can't be seen is a vain extravagance, or just down right unnecessary - if you can't see it, who needs it! Yet, losing just one tooth could lead to bone loss...which can lead to more teeth loss.

Replacing teeth with dental implants has many benefits. Even implant-supported dentures have an advantage over regular dentures. So, how do implants do this?



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## The Inside Scoop

Well, let's first talk about what happens inside your mouth when a tooth is missing: A tooth root is the life-force of the surrounding jaw bone - like Popeye's spinach. It stimulates the bone to grow and gives it something to latch on to. If there's no longer a root to stimulate that area of bone, the bone slowly begins to deteriorate.



This degeneration can slowly spread to the neighboring teeth and cause instability for those teeth – like a house built on swamp land. Also, with a void in your mouth's landscape, the remaining teeth have room to move around. Elbow room is great for roommates, not for your teeth. Your teeth can be like slow-moving dominoes... if one falls down, the others will eventually follow.



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## Terminator Tooth

However, dental implants provide a stable life-like replacement, not just a "space filler". An implant is comprised of a titanium post that is surgically imbedded in your jaw bone. A natural-looking porcelain "tooth" is then screwed onto the post for a secure fit. The titanium post operates as a real tooth root, instigating the surrounding bone to grow like it would for a real root - no more bone loss from tooth loss! The implant looks and functions like a real tooth, but it's stronger and more durable – Terminator tooth!



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## Support Your Local Denture

Implants can also provide more stability for full and partial dentures, as well. As any denture wearer knows, they can come with restrictions and frustrations. But implant-supported dentures can bring back a secure smile while eating what you want in between.



Because the denture is anchored to the implant – that is anchored to your jaw – it provides an unyielding dependability for biting down on your favorite foods you were denied with regular dentures. Now you can have your apple and eat it, too...and your steak, and popcorn, poppy seeds, peanut butter, corn-on-the-cob, etc. There's no chance of an embarrassing dislodgement when you chew or smile.



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## Saving Face

Since there's no need for adhesives, you save money down the road. But money is not the only thing you save with implant-supported dentures. They will help you save your facial contour, too. With full dentures and no anchors, there's a likelihood of total jaw degeneration, but dentures with implants can impede bone recession. As mentioned above, the implants are secured to the titanium posts in your jaw, which stimulates the bone to grow, helping to keep a healthy jaw. So, no matter your tooth loss circumstance, dental implants are a natural-looking whole smile investment.

