

A guide to dental restoration procedures and options.

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Introduction

Dental implants are a popular and effective way to replace missing teeth. They are permanent fixtures that are anchored into the jawbone and topped with a dental crown, bridge, or denture. In this article, we will explore what dental implants are, the benefits of dental implants, and what patients can expect during and after the implant procedure. Dental implants are small titanium posts that are surgically placed into the jawbone. Once the implants are in place, they fuse with the bone in a process called osseointegration, creating a stable foundation for a dental restoration. The restoration can be a single crown, bridge, or denture, depending on the number of missing teeth [1].

Benefits of dental implants

Improved appearance: Dental implants look and feel like natural teeth, which can help to restore a patient's confidence and improve their overall appearance.

Improved oral health: Dental implants do not require adjacent teeth to be ground down or altered, which helps to preserve the natural tooth structure and overall oral health.

Improved function: Dental implants function like natural teeth, allowing patients to eat and speak normally without any discomfort or difficulty [2].

Long-lasting: With proper care and maintenance, dental implants can last a lifetime.

Improved self-esteem: Dental implants can help to restore a patient's self-esteem and confidence by providing a natural-looking, functional smile [3].

Dental implant procedure

The first step in the dental implant process is a consultation with a dental professional to determine whether the patient is a good candidate for the procedure. The dentist will evaluate the patient's oral health, take X-rays or CT scans to assess the jawbone density, and develop a treatment plan.

Implant placement: During the implant placement procedure, the dentist will make a small incision in the gum tissue and drill a small hole into the jawbone. The implant is then placed into the hole and the gum tissue is stitched closed.

Osseointegration: After the implant is placed, the patient

will need to wait several months for osseointegration to occur. During this time, the implant will fuse with the jawbone, creating a strong, stable foundation for the dental restoration [4].

Abutment placement: Once osseointegration is complete, the dentist will place an abutment on top of the implant. The abutment is a small connector piece that attaches the implant to the dental restoration.

Dental restoration: The final step in the dental implant process is the placement of the dental restoration. This can be a single crown, bridge, or denture, depending on the number of missing teeth.

Patients may experience some pain, swelling, and bruising after the implant procedure. These symptoms can usually be managed with over-the-counter pain relievers and cold compresses. Patients should avoid eating hard or crunchy foods and should stick to soft foods until the implant has fully healed. Once the implant has fully healed, patients should practice good oral hygiene, including brushing twice a day, flossing daily, and visiting the dentist regularly for check-ups and cleanings.

Dental implants are a safe and effective way to replace missing teeth and restore a patient's smile and oral health. While the procedure may seem daunting, modern techniques and materials have made dental implant treatment much more comfortable and successful than in the past. If you are missing one or more teeth, talk to your dentist about whether dental implants may be a good option for you. With the right care and treatment, you can enjoy a healthy, functional smile for years to come [5].

References

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