

DENTAL IMPLANT BUYER'S GUIDE



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Learn about the prerequisite procedures for any dental implants so you can avoid the most common complications!!

Are you missing a single tooth or multiple teeth?

Are you tired of uncomfortable partials or full dentures that have your social life suffering?

Have you been told you have to remove your teeth and are confused by all the options?

Do you wonder why there are so many differences in costs?

The purpose of this guide is to answer these questions for you. Our goal is to help you in your decision making process by clarifying all the confusion. A properly educated patient can better make the right decision for themselves. The Internet is a great tool for gathering information but in our experience with dentistry and dental implants it seems to create more confusion than answers.

It is important to understand that there are times when the dental implant is not your best option. Yes... that's right, dental implants are not always the best option for your situation and it is very important to know about those situations when you are better off doing an alternative treatment option. We hope you enjoy this guide and welcome any additional questions you may have.

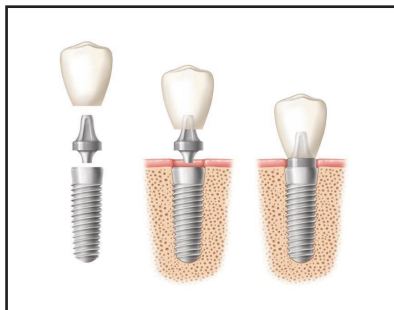
What exactly is a dental implant?

There are 3 parts to a dental implant.

The first part is the dental implant body. The word dental implant refers to the screw (usually titanium) that replaces the root of the tooth that was lost. This is the part that goes into the jaw and is under the gums and you do not see this part of the implant.

The second part is the abutment. The abutment serves the purpose of holding onto the replacement tooth. It screws into the implant body. It can be made of titanium, porcelain, or gold.

The third part is the tooth. This can be a crown, bridge, or snap in denture.



Each part of the dental implant has many options available. With the dental implant screw there are almost a thousand options. With the crowns there are over 70 options.

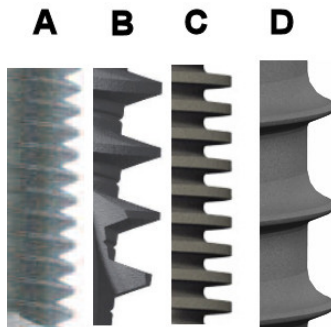
The general differences between the different implant screws are:

1. Strength of the titanium alloy. Any titanium alloy is rated from T1 to T5. T1 is the weakest and T5 is the strongest. By the way there is only one dental implant manufacturer that has every implant and every part (i.e. screws) that are T5 grade.
2. Surface coating/etching. The surface of the implant can be altered in order to improve surface area.
3. Thread design. The amount of threads and thread design can have a tremendous impact on the surface area of the implant. For example a square thread will provide much more surface area than a typical machined thread.

So you may be wondering why all the differences and does it matter. It definitely can matter. Look at the previous picture. One implant with many large threads and one with a few small threads. I prefer having more threads especially in cases where we need



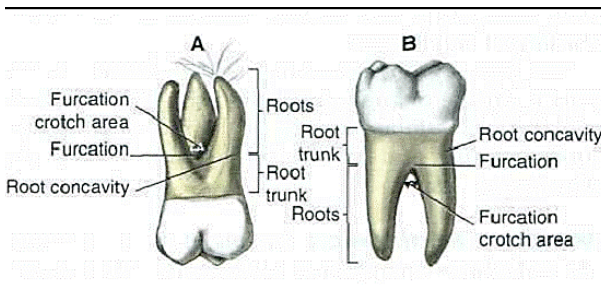
more strength and surface area. In the molar area you bite with 200 plus –pounds of pressure. In the front tooth area you bite with about 20 pounds of pressure. So I would want to make sure there is more surface area where I have more bite force. There are other scenarios that create extra pressure on an implant like a bad bite etc.



If you need all the teeth in an arch replaced and you are putting in a screw retained implant bridge then the strength of the abutment screws, not just the dental implant, becomes important. You do not want your bridge to keep coming loose. This is actually why we have a favorite implant when we do those procedures. You guessed it, it is the one that has T5 grade screws.

Lets discuss why the thread design matters. When we go into the lower jawbone to place the implant it is like going into a block of maple wood. When we go into the upper jawbone it is like going into a block of Styrofoam. There is a great difference in density of bone. Mother nature compensates for that difference in density by changing the root structure of your teeth. For instance, a lower molar has 2 roots. To compensate for the lack of density mother nature adds a third root to the upper molars. This third root called the palatal root is large and typically has more surface area than the other two roots combined. Dental implants are a cylinder shape and by changing the thread design we can gain more surface area. These images below demonstrate the root structure of a lower molar versus an upper molar. In our office we have several types of implants to meet every situation and budget. Many offices only use one implant for all their cases.

Now we will discuss the types of crowns. There are over 70 crown options on the market. They vary by material, strength, and quality. The number one cause of crown failure is failure at the margin (where the crown meets the tooth at the gum line). If you get leakage at the margin saliva and bacteria gets underneath the crown and causes a cavity. The two things that make the biggest difference in cost is how well the margin is created and the cosmetics. A production high volume lab guy makes 50 to 60 crowns a day. A high end lab guy making crowns with the best margins possible will make about 10 crowns a day. Since they cannot make as many in a day their fee per crown is higher.



Now we will discuss what determines the success rate of dental implants.

When done correctly dental implants are the most predictable thing we do in dentistry. The predictability comes from several factors that include:

1. Doctor experience. A doctor that has done 50 implants will not have the same success rate as someone that has done 500. There is a learning curve to everything we do in dentistry and medicine.
2. Implant design and brand.
3. Time spent planning and studying the case. This is the most critical part of the case. There should be a 3d image and implant study done. If someone gives you a treatment plan for dental implants without this step you should seek another opinion. **THIS IS THE PROCEDURE THAT SHOULD ALWAYS BE DONE PRIOR TO ANY IMPLANT.** Watch our educational video on dental implant studies to understand how exactly this works. Without this you can not achieve the same predictability. When evaluating to replace teeth with dental implants it is very important to figure out why

the tooth/teeth were lost or have to be removed. The reason is because if there are problems causing you to lose a tooth and that problem is not resolved then your replacement tooth can be lost for the same reason.

Some common problems that can cause the loss of teeth and therefore the loss of the replacement tooth/teeth include:

- Bite problems
- Periodontal infection
- Sleep apnea
- Undiagnosed medical conditions such as diabetes and vitamin D deficiency
- Unbalanced bacterial profile in your mouth

Who is a candidate for dental implants?

There are conditions which preclude some people from being a good candidate for dental implants. Some of those conditions include:

- HIV positive
- Uncontrolled diabetic
- Pregnancy
- Radiation treatment to the head and neck

Patients that have osteoporosis and controlled diabetes can have dental implants but the healing and integration time may be longer. If you have been on any of the bisphosphonate medications such as Fosomax and Bonivia or the newer medication Prolia there is a simple blood test that can be done to determine if it puts you at risk for complications.











Have you been told you have to lose your teeth and do not want to wear a denture or do you have a denture and you're just tired of it?

There are many options to avoid wearing dentures. We try to avoid dentures whenever possible. They are bad for your health and social life. The Mayo clinic has done studies that show if you wear a denture you live on average 10 years less. You also have a 400% increased chance of oral cancer. In addition, your incidences of gastrointestinal problems are much higher. With natural teeth you can bite with about 200 pounds of pressure and typically with dentures you can only bite with 18 to 20 pounds of pressure. When 65 years old was old we would routinely make dentures and consider your treatment done. Today we do not make dentures and consider that final treatment very often. This is because as you age and get into your 70's and 80's all the problems from wearing dentures start to begin. When you do not have teeth the jaw bone is not stimulated and the bone resorbs away. This is why dentures get thicker as you age and don't fit well. By putting dental implants in you stimulate the bone and the bone loss stops.

The good news is you usually do not have to go into a denture. If you have a denture we can get rid of it with dental implants. There are many options when it comes to replace- ment teeth when you have to lose all of your teeth. We can place implants when we remove the teeth and put teeth in. it's like getting a 3rd set of teeth. I have included a comparative chart to see why we prefer the done in one procedure over the others. Done in one, clear choice, teeth express, all on four, Hybridge are all versions of full arch tooth replacement.

Does dental insurance cover dental implants?

This varies from one policy to the next. We have an insurance coordinator that will determine exactly what your insurance benefits are.

Comparison Chart	
 Our Office Implant Options	 Other Teeth in a Day Options <small>(i.e. All-on-4, Teeth in a Day, TeethExpress, Hybridge)</small>
 Permanent teeth from the beginning, skipping temporary teeth.	 Utilizes a temporary material or denture converted to screw, retain temporary teeth.
 Permanent teeth delivered in as little as 48 hours.	 Continue to wear temporary for up to 6 months before starting permanent teeth.
 Minimal number of appointments to completion.	 6-8 months of appointments to maintain tempo- rary and make them permanent. (often 10-15 appointments)
 Nano Ceramic - Has the cosmetics of porcelain and does not wear out or stain like dentures.	 Resin Teeth, stain and wear prematurely Zirconia materials available which are brittle and bulky resulting in a less natural feel

Where do I go from here?

As you can tell, there are many options and every person is different in their require- ments. How do you determine what your needs are? We will outline your potential steps.

1. Schedule to attend our "Healthy Smile for a Healthy Life" Dental Implant & Well- ness Seminar to gather more information.
2. Schedule a virtual consult to review your case with our staff, in the convenience of your home.
3. Review our video on the different implant options
4. Make an appointment to come in for your free consultation, including a 3D scan and your implant study to determine your individualized options.

Dr. Fred Eck, DDS

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Frederick Eck, DDS, received his education at Georgia College and the University of Detroit Mercy. He is dedicated to providing his patients with warm, personal care as well as ensuring they maintain optimal oral health. He has a special interest in helping patients get relief from the often-debilitating pain of TMJ disorder. He is dedicated to educating the public through his free oral health and wellness and dental implant seminars. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his son Braxton, golfing, cooking and fishing!



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