The Consequences of Missing Teeth

Lost facial curvature

Restored profile

Facial structure collapse

Implant supported overdentures

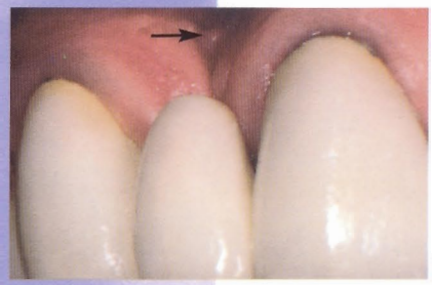
Complete Tooth Loss

Possibility of:

- Loss of muscle tone
- Increased wrinkles
- Difficulty biting and chewing
- Potential health problems due to malnutrition
- Difficulty speaking
- Sore spots under denture
- Risk of fungal infections under dentures
- Frequent need for relines of dentures
- Fear of slippage
- Facial structure change

The Consequences of Missing Teeth

Anterior bony defect



Posterior bite collapse

Bone loss is responsible for many of the problems encountered after tooth loss.

When one or more teeth are removed, the bone that surrounded the root no longer receives any stimulation from chewing and begins to melt away.

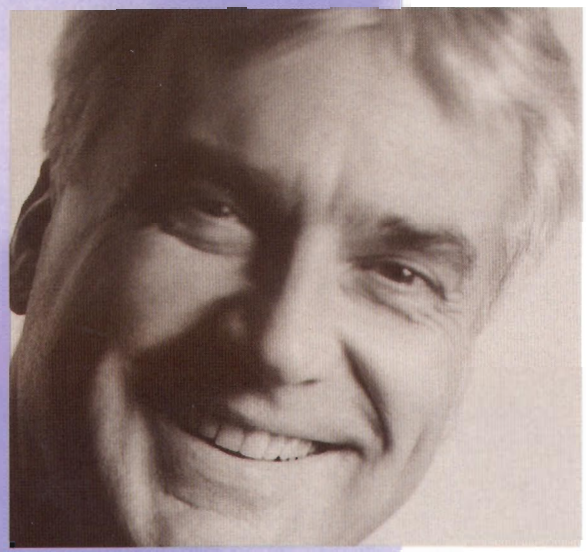
Traditional methods of tooth replacement, bridges, partials and dentures, are unable to address this most important consequence of tooth loss. Each of these methods is limited to replacing only the crown or visible portion of the tooth. They cannot replace the missing root.

The problems resulting from bone loss may include cosmetic changes, health challenges and even emotional issues.

Tooth Loss Can Cause:

- Defects in the bone
- Shifting and drifting teeth
- Bite changes
- Chewing difficulty
- Wearing down of remaining teeth
- Cracking and chiping of remaining teeth
- Changes in the jaw joint
- Facial changes

Dental Implants: A "Natural" Replacement



Today, the preferred method of tooth replacement is dental implant treatment. Dental implants replace missing tooth roots, and form a stable foundation for replacement teeth that look, feel and function like your natural teeth. Dental implants also help preserve the remaining bone by providing the stimulation previously provided by the natural tooth roots.

There are numerous advantages of dental implant treatment over other treatment options. It is not necessary to grind down the adjacent teeth for a bridge, or secure a partial denture to adjacent teeth with clasps or hooks which can cause tooth loosening. Implant-supported replacement teeth spare patients many of the disadvantages of traditional false teeth.

Benefits of Implant Treatment

- Helps to minimize the bone resorption (deterioration) process
- Looks, feels and functions like natural teeth
- Does not compromise adjacent teeth by grinding them down for a bridge
- Increases stability, making chewing more natural
- Eliminates pain of ill-fitting dentures and partials
- Improves appearance
- Often easier to clean than traditional tooth replacements

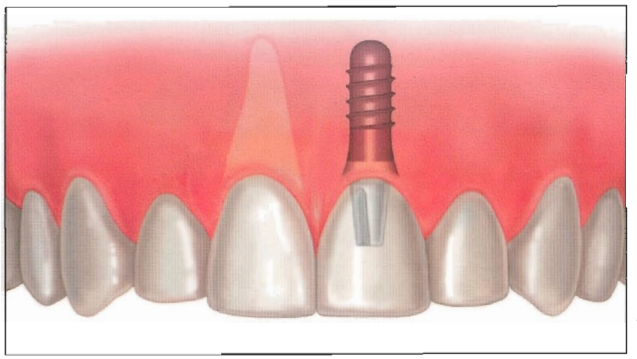
Single Anterior Tooth Replacement

Before implant placement

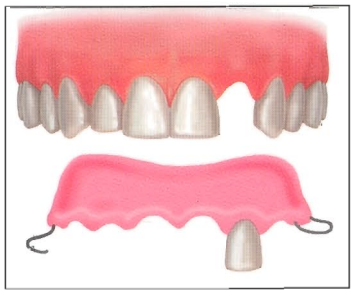
Final restoration with a dental implant

Courtesy of the University of Florida, Center for Implant Dentistry

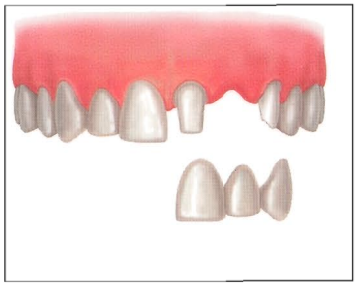
Treatment Options



Implant supported crown



Removable partial denture



Tooth supported bridge

Benefits of Implant Supported Crown

- Helps to preserve bone by replacing tooth root
- Looks, feels and functions like a natural tooth
- Does not compromise adjacent teeth by grinding them down for a bridge or securing a partial denture to them
- Superior long-term esthetics
- Same home care as natural teeth

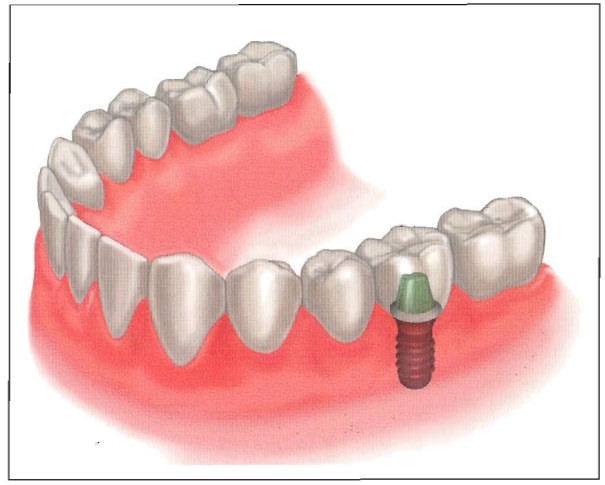
Single Posterior Tooth Replacement

Before implant placement

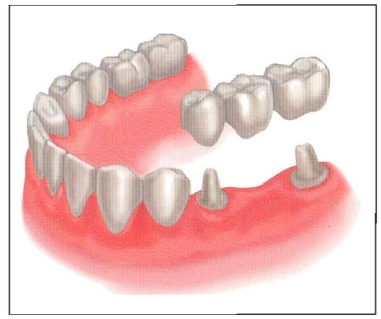
Final restoration with dental implants

Courtesy of Dr. Daniel Hess

Treatment Options



Implant supported crown



Tooth supported bridge

Benefits of Implant Supported Crown

- Helps to preserve bone by replacing tooth root
- Looks, feels and functions like a natural tooth
- Does not compromise adjacent teeth by grinding them down for a bridge
- Unique design of implants is ideal for molar replacement (strength to handle forces of chewing)

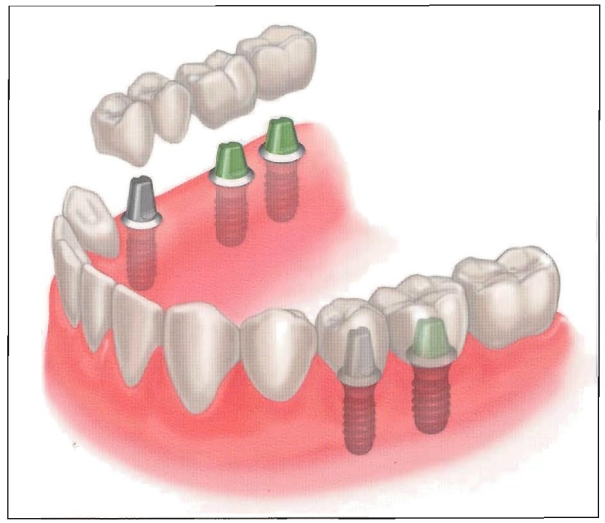
Multiple Posterior Tooth Replacement

Before implant placement

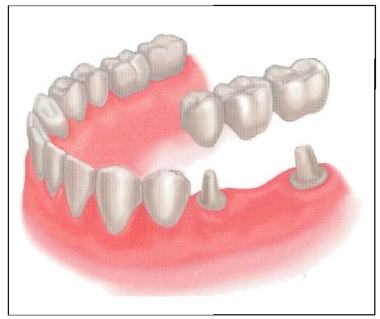
Final restoration with dental implants

Courtesy of Dr. Scott Keith

Treatment Options



Implant supported crown and bridge



Tooth supported bridge

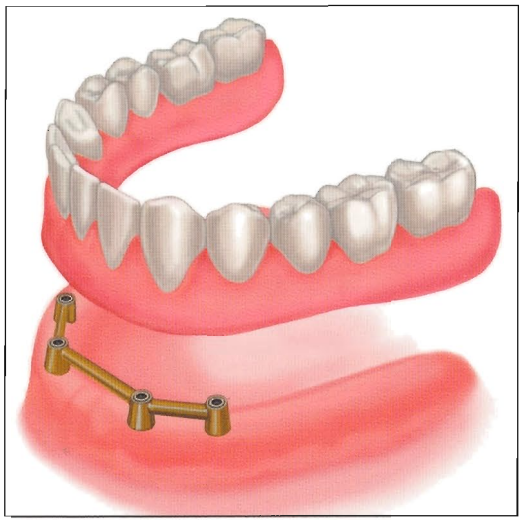
Benefits of Implant Supported Crown and Bridge

- Helps to preserve bone by replacing tooth roots
- Does not compromise adjacent teeth by grinding them down for a bridge or securing a partial denture to them
- Looks, feels and functions like natural teeth
- Increases stability and comfort
- Restores natural chewing capacity

Complete Lower Tooth Replacement

Treatment Options

Implant supported bridge



Implant supported overdenture

Implant supported overdenture

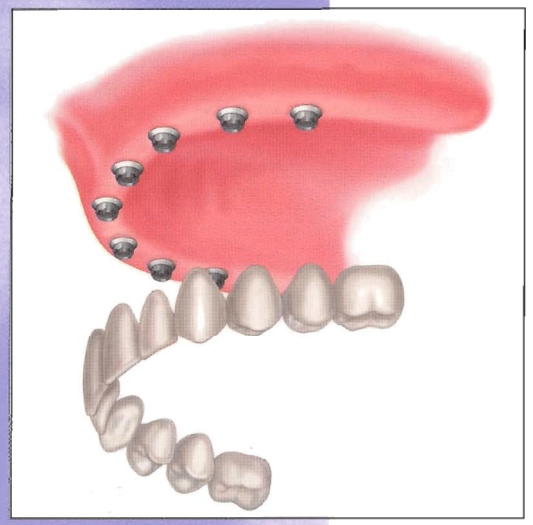
Conventional removeable full denture

Benefits of Implant Supported Bridge or Overdenture

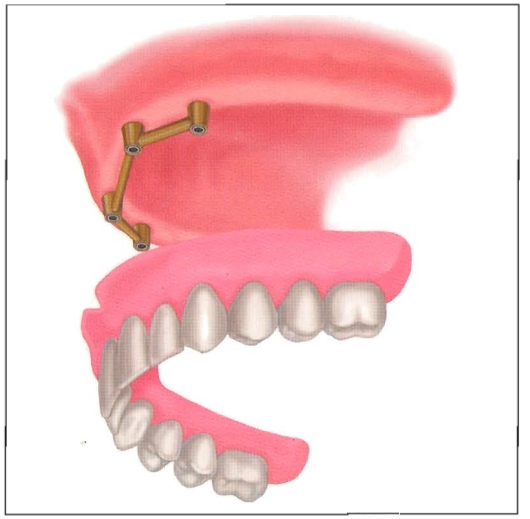
- Helps in preserving the remaining bone and in maintaining the integrity of facial structure
- Eliminates the need for adhesives and reduces the chance of pain from ill-fitting dentures
- Increased stability restores natural chewing capacity and may improve speech

Complete Upper Tooth Replacement

Treatment Options

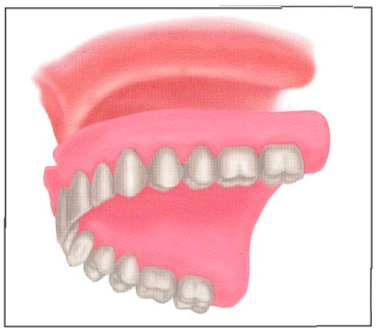


Implant supported bridge



Implant supported overdenture

Implant supported overdenture

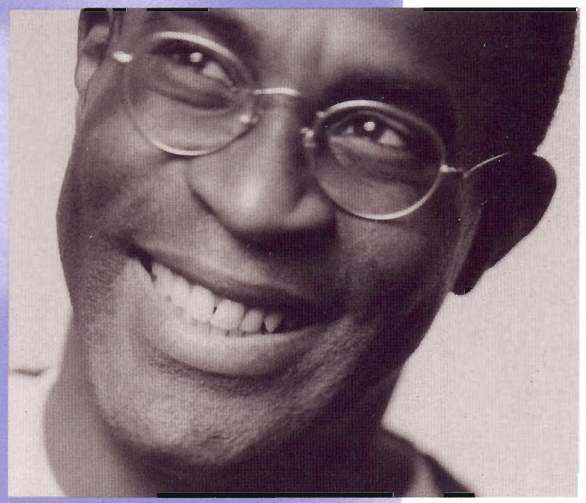


Conventional removeable full denture

Benefits of Implant Supported Bridge or Overdenture

- Helps to maintain integrity of facial structures by helping to preserve the remaining bone
- Restores lost lip support and therefore can minimize the appearance of wrinkles
- Option of leaving the roof of the mouth uncovered
- Increased stability restores natural chewing capacity and helps to improve speech
- Eliminates the need for adhesive and reduces the chance of pain from ill-fitting dentures

Simplified Treatment Sequence



Careful treatment planning is necessary for a good result. Diagnostic aids such as x-rays and three-dimensional models of your mouth enable your restorative doctor and surgeon to determine your best treatment options.

A gentle surgical procedure is used to place the implants in the jawbone where they remain undisturbed for approximately 6-12 weeks. During this healing phase the bone integrates with the implant, forming a strong biological bond between your substitute tooth roots and jawbone. A temporary tooth replacement can be worn until the final crown is placed.

Unlike most other implant systems that require two surgical procedures, the ITI® DENTAL IMPLANT SYSTEM is designed for only one surgery. The elimination of a second surgery increases patient comfort and convenience while decreasing trauma to the gums surrounding the implant.

Once the bone has integrated with the implants and the foundation is stable, a small connector is placed on the implant.

Your new replacement teeth, which will be custom made with both functional and cosmetic needs in mind, will be firmly attached to the connector. Fabricating your new teeth involves a series of appointments to insure proper size, shape, color and fit.