

# What You Need To Know About Dental Implants\*

**Why Implants, The Basics On Different Systems, The Implant Procedure, And How To Choose A Provider**



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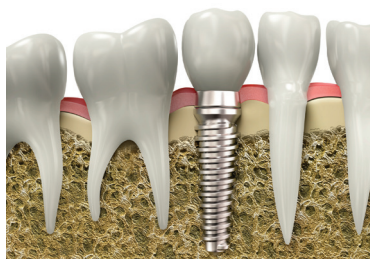
\*This Guide is intended as an introductory overview only, and is not a substitute for your doctor's advice.

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**Dental Implants** have been around for more than 50 years now. If you have diseased or missing teeth, and your gums and bones are relatively healthy, dental implants are usually the best option. Compared to other solutions like dentures and bridge work, today's dental implants are a permanent solution with many advantages. But like any surgical option, the success of your implant procedure depends on many things including the skill of your surgeon, the implant system itself, and you, the patient.

This Guide covers the most important considerations when deciding if implant surgery is for you, and how to make the best decision possible when selecting your implant provider.

## Why Consider Implants



The Latest Dental Implants—  
Today's Standard of Care

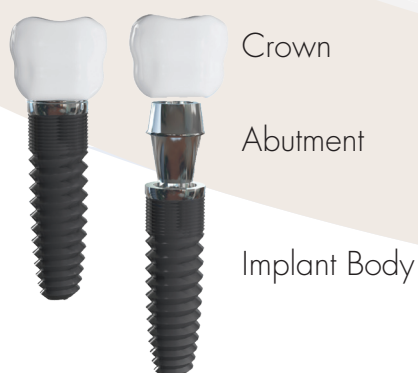


Older Denture, Crown and  
Bridge Systems—  
When Conditions For Implants  
Are Not Optimal

Rather than connect replacement teeth to existing teeth as with the older denture, or crown and bridge techniques, today leading dental organizations recommend clinically proven implant systems for tooth replacement. Implants are a truly permanent solution more like a natural tooth. The latest implants are made with titanium. **Assuming the quality of your jaw bone is adequate to place the implant and heal normally after surgery\***, the titanium implant will fuse with your bone. As you can see from the pictures, the implant is a complete replacement of a missing tooth. In addition, with proper surgical technique, implant success rates exceed 95%.

One major advantage of implants over other tooth replacement options, for example fixed bridges, is that the structure of the implant does not decay as tooth structure does. This means you cannot get a cavity on an implant, whereas you could on the tooth that is part of your fixed bridge. Also implants preserve tooth structure. You don't have to "cut into" other teeth in order to place an implant, whereas placing a bridge to replace your missing tooth requires removing/drilling into other teeth in order to place the bridge on top of them. The list of advantages goes on. Not everyone is a candidate for an implant and a proper assessment by your implant dentist is necessary to determine your eligibility and success.

## Implant Systems The Basics



Dental implants are mechanical systems that have parts and "installation" or placement techniques best suited for each system. The most common and widely used implant systems have three basic parts.

1. The anchor (body) which is placed into the jaw bone;
2. The extension (abutment) which sits on top of the anchor to hold the crown;
3. The crown itself.

Although most manufacturers supply the same basic parts, it's important to understand that each manufacturer makes the parts differently—this means that your surgeon's choice of manufacturer may affect your long-term satisfaction as well as your ability to have the implant worked on in the future. **Before selecting your implant provider, in addition to checking his or her training, certification, and implant surgery experience, we recommend you research the system they will use and make sure it has a clear history and is widely used by other reputable surgeons in your area.**

\* Your implant provider will assess your health and medical history before recommending implants.

## The Implant Procedure What To Expect

Typically an implant procedure requires three steps to complete over a period of about 4 - 6 months. First, the implant body is placed in the jaw bone and allowed to heal for 4 to 6 months. Then the implant body is uncovered, and the implant abutment is attached to the implant body and tested for strength and healing. Once the implant and abutment has passed the strength test the implant crown can be fabricated and attached to the implant abutment. The best part is this is usually accomplished all in one appointment.



## Choosing Your Implant Provider

All dentists placing dental implants must complete certain requirements and additional training to do so competently. Experience is another key factor, and is widely variable. Speak to your dentist about their experience and success in cases like yours.

## Key Questions to Ask Your Implant Provider

### Surgical Training From Accredited Program

Where and when did your dentist train to place dental implants?

We strongly recommend selecting an experienced dentist with surgical training in implant dentistry by an accredited institution. Ask your dentist about the training program and their level of experience. In addition, you can learn more about accredited institutions and dentists in your area by visiting:

- Canadian Dental Association— [cda-adc.ca](http://cda-adc.ca)

### Choice of Implant System

What implant manufacturer do you use, how long have you used them, and why did you choose or switch to them?

Some of the most trusted names in implant systems include AstraTech, Straumann, Nobel Biocare, 3i (Implant Innovations), Biohorizons, and Zimmer. You want to make sure your system is:

- 1) widely supported so replacement parts and tools are readily available, and
- 2) well researched showing evidence supporting the claims made by the manufacturer.



# Ask About A Complimentary Consultation!



Call (905) 853-9355 to book your appointment.



## Office Hours

Mon-Thurs: 7am-4pm  
Open Select Fridays/Saturdays

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