

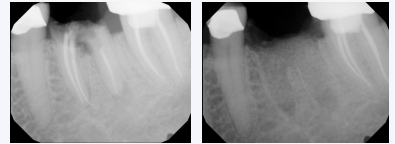
# REPLACING A MISSING TOOTH WITH A DENTAL IMPLANT

Restoring and maintaining facial bone structure is important for several reasons. The jaw and other facial bones support the skin and muscle that are responsible for our outward cosmetic appearance; our faces can look prematurely aged. There are many options available to replace a missing tooth: no treatment, a removable denture, a fixed bridge, or a dental implant. Your dentist will discuss the risks and benefits of each option with you. This form is designed to help you better understand the dental implant process. There are multiple steps and procedures and each person's situation may differ slightly.

Please feel free to ask your dentist any questions!

## VISIT #1: YOUR NATURAL TOOTH CANNOT BE MAINTAINED (90-MINUTE PROCEDURE)

When your natural tooth has had extensive damage (decay, fracture, cracks, bone loss) and can no longer be repaired with dental treatment, extraction (removal) is indicated. After careful removal of your natural tooth, a bone graft and covering is placed at the time of surgery to help re-build a good foundation and preserve the bone you have. Healing time is 3-4 months



## VISIT #2: SUTURE REMOVAL 2 WEEKS AFTER EXTRACTION (30-MINUTE PROCEDURE)

Suture removal is a quick visit in which the surgical area is evaluated for proper healing and the stitches are removed.

## VISIT #3: EVALUATION AND SURGICAL PLANNING: 2 MONTHS AFTER EXTRACTION (30-MINUTE PROCEDURE)

It takes twelve weeks for the bone graft to solidify and become strong enough to support a dental implant. This visit is scheduled around the halfway point to monitor your bone/gum healing. A CBCT (3D X-ray) is taken for the dentist to select the custom implant size for your future tooth and to discuss any additional procedures that may be necessary either before or during your implant surgery (including additional bone grafting, sinus lift, gum tissue procedure). An impression will be taken to create the implant guide, which is used by the dentist on the day of surgery to guide the implant into a good position.



## VISIT #4: IMPLANT (TITANIUM ROOT) PLACEMENT (90-MINUTE PROCEDURE)

On the day of your implant surgery, the implant (titanium root) will be placed below your gums. After it is placed, NO TOOTH will be added since it needs time to heal (12-16 Weeks) and become sufficiently anchored into position. If you receive additional bone or sinus grafting at the time of surgery, the implant requires a longer healing time. Your dentist will inform you of the necessary healing time. Depending on your case, the dentist may either cover the implant with your gum tissue or may place a "healing abutment" (small covering) onto the head of the implant. If the healing abutment is placed, visit #6 is skipped. Healing time is 2-3 months.



## VISIT #5: SUTURE REMOVAL: 2 WEEKS AFTER IMPLANT SURGERY (30-MINUTE PROCEDURE)

Suture removal is a quick visit, where the surgical area will be evaluated for proper healing and the stitches will be removed. Most patients do not require local anesthesia for this visit. If you think you will please inform your dentist.

## VISIT #6: STAGE 2/IMPLANT UNCOVERY: 3 MONTHS AFTER IMPLANT SURGERY (40-MINUTE PROCEDURE)

Once the implant heals underneath the gums, it needs to be uncovered in order to build the tooth or crown component. At this visit, the dentist uses local anesthesia ("Novocain") to anesthetize the gums and expose the top of the implant. The "healing abutment" is placed onto the implant to help form the gum in preparation for the new tooth. The healing abutment protrudes slightly above the gum's surface and you will be able to feel this with your tongue. Healing time 1 month



## VISIT #7: IMPLANT CROWN IMPRESSION: 4 WEEKS AFTER UNCOVERY OR 3 MONTHS AFTER IMPLANT PLACEMENT (40-MINUTE PROCEDURE)

At this visit, your gums have healed enough to take the digital scans. For this, we use the iTero Scan. Once the digital scan is taken, they're instantly available at the lab and the process of fabricating your implant crown starts.



## VISIT #8: IMPLANT CROWN INSERTION (60-MINUTE PROCEDURE)

The time has come to meet your new tooth! At this visit, your healing abutment is removed and your new tooth is placed. We always check that you are happy with the look and bite of your new tooth and demonstrate how to properly clean around the implant.



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Your implant requires routine maintenance just like your other teeth. Implants do not get decay, but the bone supporting the implant can be affected by gum disease. Good home care and regular cleanings and check-ups can lengthen the lifespan of your implant. Be sure to remind your dentist at your regular cleanings where your implant(s) is located, so that she may take special care around your new tooth. We recommend being fitted for a night guard after placement of the implant crown to protect your new dental work and other teeth.

## SUMMARY:

- 8 Dental Visits
- 7-10 months of total treatment time
- Cost and payment plan options will be discussed with our patient care coordinator



## SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

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