



TOLMIE, RASENBERGER & VAN KESTEREN

D.D.S., P.A. Periodontics ♦ Implantology

Dental Implants

Losing one or more teeth can have a major impact on quality of life. Your smile, your bite, and even your ability to eat can be negatively affected.

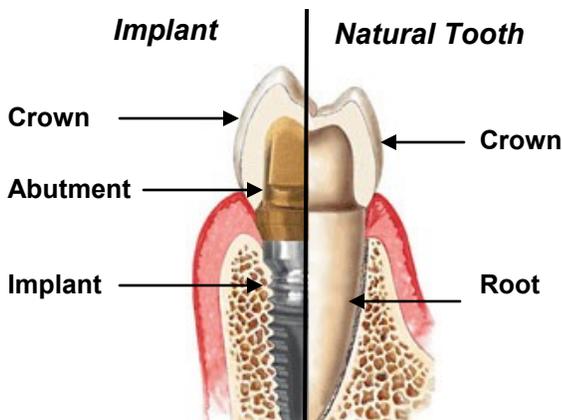
The primary goal of periodontal therapy is to “save” a tooth (or teeth) whenever possible. However, when periodontal treatment options are not predictable to achieve this goal, the conversation shifts to how best to replace what is now “missing.”

In this newsletter, we will review why implants are an excellent choice for tooth/teeth replacement.

What are dental implants?

Dental implants are titanium posts that, when placed in bone, can be used to replace a single tooth, to replace multiple teeth, or, with the use of special attachments, to stabilize a denture.

Advances in implant surface technology allow the surrounding bone to intimately lock the implant into place. Since this material is biocompatible, the body will not “reject” an implant.

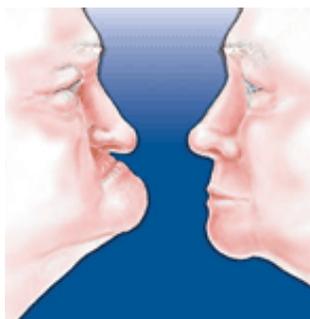
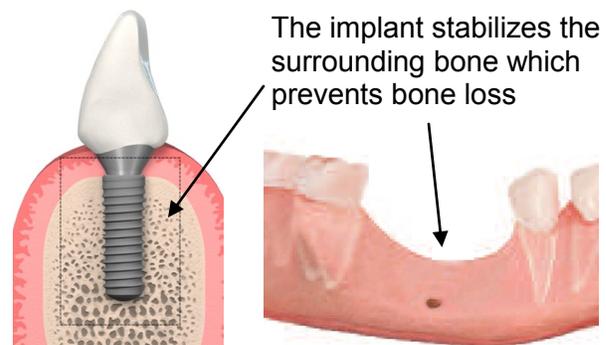


Why dental implants?

Dental implants, the closest thing to nature’s design, offer hope for re-creating a healthy, new, and confident smile. They are intended to be a long lasting solution for tooth loss.

After an extraction, the bone previously surrounding the tooth will quickly remodel or “melt away” during healing leaving a concavity or “dip” in the bone (both vertically and horizontally). Maintaining the bone after an extraction is **pivotal** in helping to support the lips and cheeks thus preventing signs of premature aging.

Dental implants help stabilize and prevent bone loss through their functional use. Since bone integrates and bonds to an implant, a strong foundation is made which can support various tooth / teeth replacement options.



Maintaining bone with dental implants prevents lips and cheeks from collapsing inward and prevents the chin from protruding forward.

Benefits of Implants

Improve Quality of Life:

Function, look, and feel like natural teeth.

No more need for denture adhesives.

Provides confidence when smiling, speaking, and eating which restores self-esteem.

Better Chewing Function:

Stabilizes dentures which makes chewing and eating the foods you like easier.

Better nutrition = Better health.

Improved Ability to Taste Food:

By locking in a denture, the denture no longer needs to cover the roof of the mouth and the ability to taste food is no longer an issue.

Preserves Support of Facial Features to Prevent Premature Aging:

Collapsing cheeks and lips can age a person 10 –20 years. Since implants preserve bone, your natural facial contours are supported which may prevent certain wrinkles.

No Impact on Adjacent Teeth Unlike a Bridge:

Implants represent a conservative treatment option. Since the adjacent teeth are left untouched, their long term health is unchanged.

Removable partial dentures induce back and forth forces on teeth that eventually damage the supporting teeth causing the partial denture to become loose.

Never Decay or Require a Root Canal.

The Body Will Not Reject an Implant.

Scientifically Proven Long-term Success for People of Any Age:

The success rate in healthy patients regardless of age is ~ 98%.

The success rate in patients with health concerns and/or smokers is ~ 94%.

Implants have a track record of lasting 30+ years.

A bridge usually lasts 7-10 years.

Partials and dentures are functional for an average of only 5 years

Am I a Candidate for Implants?

Most patients are excellent candidates for implants. Your periodontist will review various factors that influence your candidacy and your implant treatment options. Important factors include (but are not limited to) the following:

Bone quality and quantity

Gum tissue quality and quantity

Patient Esthetic Expectations

Position of vital structures (e.g. nerves, sinuses)

Health of the adjacent teeth

Overall Medical Health

Smoking

Diabetes

Bisphosphonates use for Osteopenia / porosis

Infection present

Treatment Options with Dental Implants

Single tooth replacement:

A crown attached to an implant allows the replacement of a missing tooth.

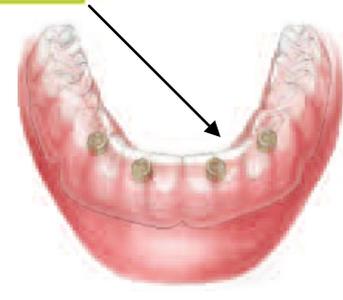
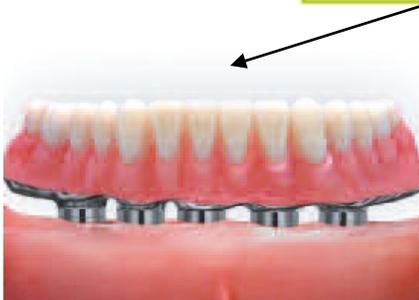
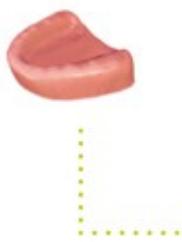


With a bridge, the two healthy adjacent teeth are cut down to fix a bridge in place. This results in a loss of natural tooth structure and the health of these teeth are negatively impacted. Because the bridge does not transmit chewing forces to the jaw bone, bone deterioration will occur.



The dental implant replaces the missing tooth root. The healthy adjacent teeth remain completely intact and are not cut down. The long term health of these teeth does not change.

1. Implant **supported fixed** dentures: **permanent** fixtures that serve as replacement teeth.
2. Implant **bar supported** dentures: **secured** to a custom support bar with clip attachments.
3. Implant **retained** dentures: **secured** in place onto two or more implants by attachments.



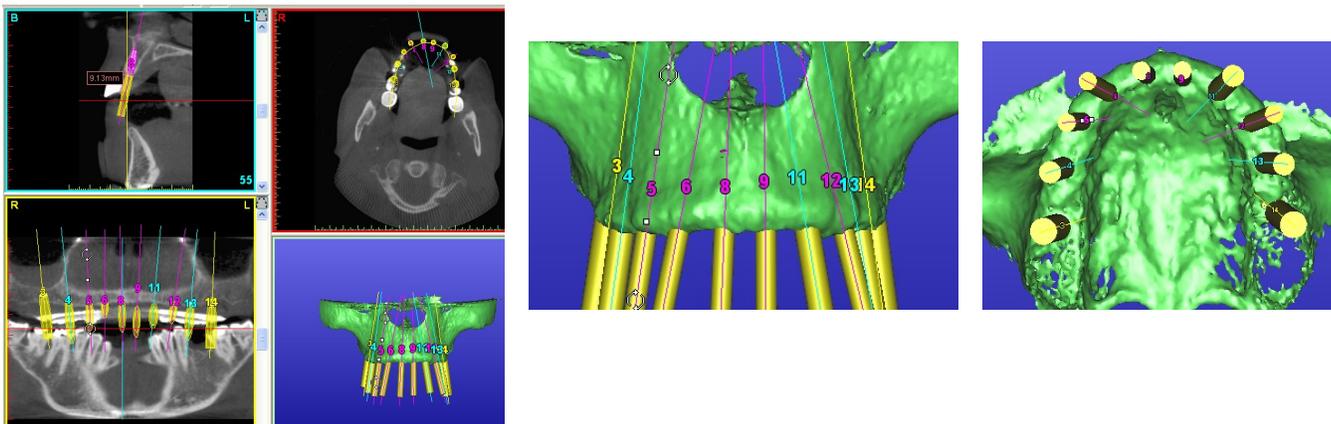
1. Supported Fixed Dentures:
Best Retention

2. Bar supported dentures:
Better Retention

3. Retained Dentures:
Good Retention

Is 3-D Imaging Necessary?

X-rays and panographs often provide all the information necessary to determine candidacy for implants. Since **bone quantity and quality** are significant factors in implant placement, 3-D imaging is sometimes necessary to examine implant sites more thoroughly and from multiple angles. In fact, with advanced imaging software, we can place implants in a **virtual rendering** of your jaws to assess predictability of treatment. 3-D imaging is sometimes needed for a single implant and more likely necessary for multiple implants.



How Long Will Treatment Take?

In a **healed extraction site** or in an **immediate implant placement site** (at the time of extraction), an implant typically requires 6-12 weeks of healing to integrate with the bone. If a tooth requires extraction and the implant cannot be placed immediately, an additional 3 months of healing is needed. Based on the situation, implant healing/treatment time ranges from **6 weeks to 6 months**. A few situations exist where the healing time may extend beyond 6 months.

The other tooth/teeth replacement options may not take as long to complete; however, none of these traditional options preserve bone. Losing bone over time will cause multiple complications to include ill-fitting dentures and signs of premature aging. Maintaining bone ensures a strong foundation for implants and allows for permanent (fixed) tooth or teeth replacement.

After implant placement, most patients experience far less discomfort than expected. Depending on your pain tolerance, Advil or Tylenol is often all that is needed. The discomfort is often less than the tooth extraction.

As experts in dental implants, we understand the importance they have on fixing a smile or stabilizing a denture so that a patient's confidence returns while eating, smiling, and laughing.

We feel implants are an excellent option when replacing a tooth or teeth since the long term prognosis is greater than any other option.

Please visit our website at www.trvperio.com or use the **QR code** for more information. You can call us at 704-549-4991 to set-up an appointment.



Paul Tolmie, D.D.S.
drtolmie@trvperio.com

(704) 549-4991

Kenneth Rasenberger, D.M.D.
drras@trvperio.com

2315 West Arbors Drive, Ste 100

Chris van Kesteren, D.D.S.
drvank@trvperio.com

Charlotte, NC 28262