



NORTH STATE PERIO

♦ PERIODONTICS & IMPLANTOLOGY ♦

Dental Implants

Losing 1 or more teeth can have a major impact on quality of life....your smile, bite, and 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."

This newsletter will review why implants are an excellent choice for tooth/teeth replacement.

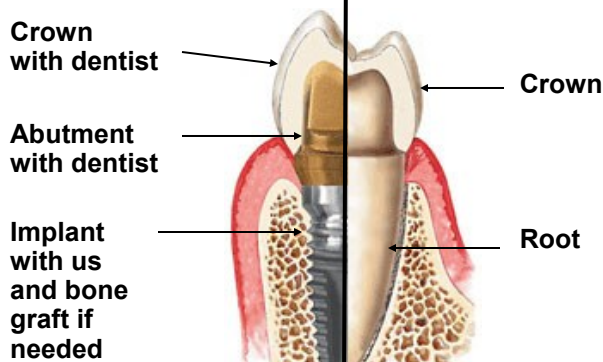
What are dental implants?

Dental implants are titanium posts that replace the root and 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" it.

Unlike a tooth where the soft tissues attach the root, the soft tissue only adhere to the implant. This gum seal is important to prevent plaque colonization on the roughened implant surface. A tooth can be smoothed clean, but the implant surfaces is more challenging to clean.

Implant Natural Tooth

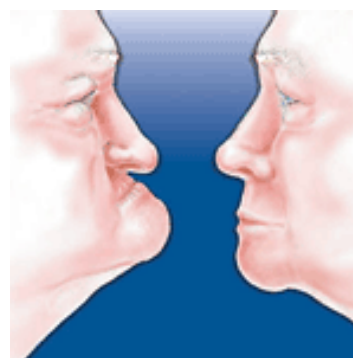
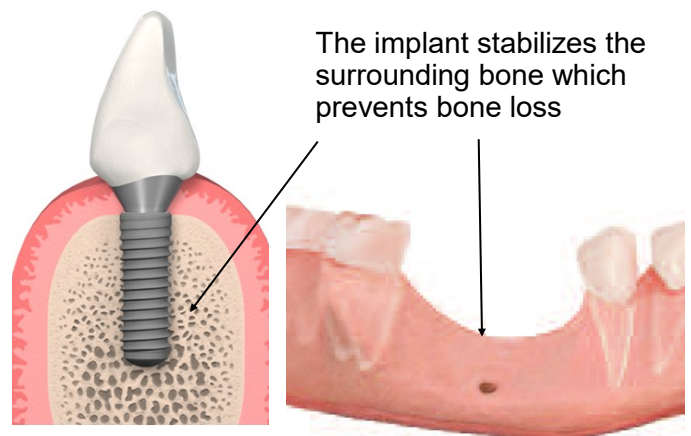


Why dental implants?

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:

Implant success rate: **healthy patients regardless of age is ~ 98%.**

Implant success rate: **if health concerns and/or smokers is ~ 85-94%.**

A bridge (or FPD) usually lasts only 7-10 years.

Removable Partial Dentures (RPD) and dentures function for an average of only 5 years.

****Plaque control; an ideal bite (no clenching/grinding); and recall visits with your dentist are critical for implant health and success. Smoking and uncontrolled diabetes are failure risk factors.**

Am I a Candidate for Implants?

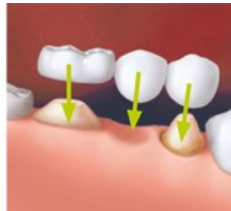
Most patients are excellent candidates for implants. Your periodontist will review various factors that influence your candidacy and your implant treatment options. Important factors include (but are not limited to) the following:

Bone quality and quantity	Overall Medical Health
Gum tissue quality and quantity	Smoking
Patient Esthetic Expectations	Diabetes
Position of vital structures (e.g. nerves, sinuses)	Bisphosphonates use for Osteopenia / porosis
Health of the adjacent teeth	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. The loss of natural tooth structure negatively impacts the health of the teeth. Bone deterioration occurs over time at the site of the missing tooth.



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.

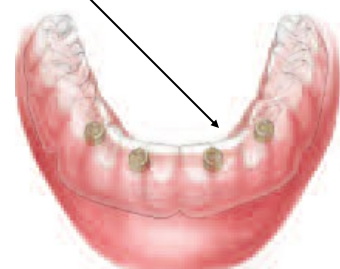
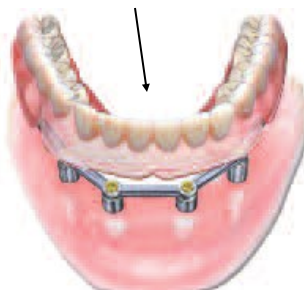
1. **Implant supported fixed dentures:** *permanent* fixtures that serve as replacement teeth.
2. **Implant bar supported dentures:** *secured* to a custom support bar with clip attachments.
3. **Implant retained dentures:** *secured* in place onto two or more implants by attachments.



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2

3



1. Supported Fixed Dentures:
Best Retention

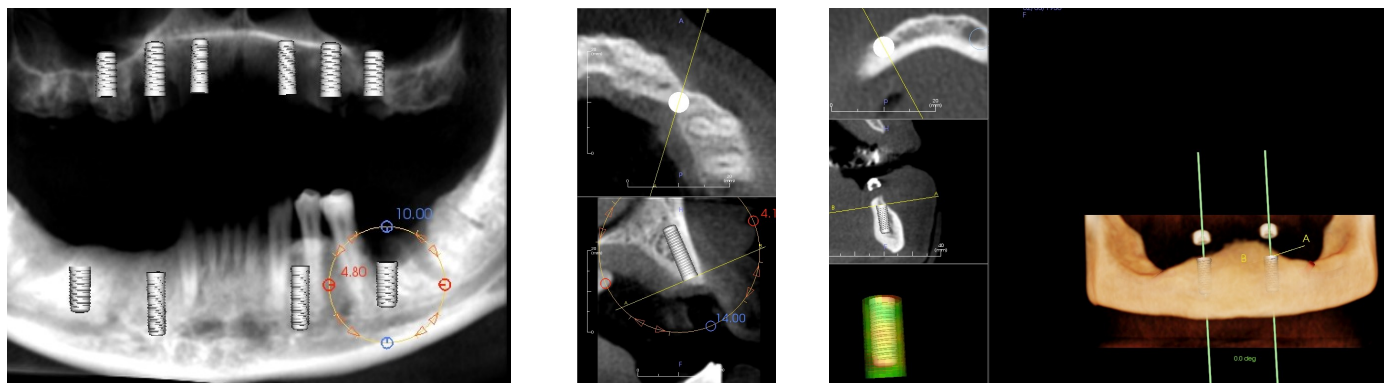
2. Bar supported dentures:
Better Retention

3. Retained Dentures:
Good Retention

Is 3-D Imaging Necessary?

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.

With advanced imaging software, we can place implants **virtually** to assess predictability of treatment.



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 up to 3 months of healing to integrate with the bone.

If a **tooth requires extraction and the implant cannot be placed immediately**, the extraction site(s) need(s) 3-5 months of healing depending on the amount of bone damage and infection present. The implant will then typically require up to 3 months of healing.

Overall, depending on your situation, 1.5 to 8 months of total healing time is needed before attaching your tooth or teeth to the implants. The implant abutment and crown are done at your general/restorative dentist office.

*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.

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 also understand that other tooth/teeth replacement options may not take as long to complete; however, we feel implants are an excellent option when replacing a tooth or teeth since the long term prognosis is greater than any other option.

For more information, visit our website www.northstateperio.com or call us at 704-549-4991.

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