

Dental Implants

Could they be right for you?

What are dental implants?

Dental implants may be a solution for adults who have missing, decayed or diseased teeth. Made from titanium (a metal known to be safe to use in the human body), implants look similar to a screw. Once placed, they serve as an artificial root, which can anchor other dental work like crowns and artificial teeth. When a person decides to get implants, he or she must work with a dental professional to make sure implants are the best solution.

Who can get dental implants?

Implants are not a good option for children and teens, because their jaws are not done growing and changing.

Adults of any age may be good candidates for implants, but a person's overall health plays into the mix. Adults who are receiving chemotherapy or are taking immuno-suppressive medication may not be good candidates. Other red flags are conditions like type 2 diabetes, bleeding disorders, immune deficiency disorders, cardiovascular disease and those suffering from certain bone diseases.

The benefits of dental implants

These days, dental implants are used in place of dentures and bridges in appropriate candidates. Here are some reasons people decide on implants:

- They stay in place - No slipping or clicking sounds when you speak
- They help with proper chewing motions
- Promote self confidence - it's amazing how a healthy smile can change a life
- No nightly removal and cleaning
- No mandatory replacement every seven to 15 years

Getting dental implants

Once you and your provider decide dental implants are right for you, be prepared for a multi-procedure process. Implants cannot be done in one day! Here's what to expect:

- You'll have an initial consultation with your provider to determine if implants are a good solution for you.
- If implants are right for you, your dental provider will perform surgery to attach the implant to your jawbone and gum tissue. Once healed, it acts like an artificial tooth root, which anchors crowns and/or artificial teeth.
- Crowns and/or artificial teeth will be placed once the implant area is healed.
- Implants are now covered by Delta Dental under many group dental plans!

To find out if you're a good candidate for dental implants, talk to your dental provider.

