



# Live life the way you want to

with dental implants from  
an AAID-credentialed dentist.

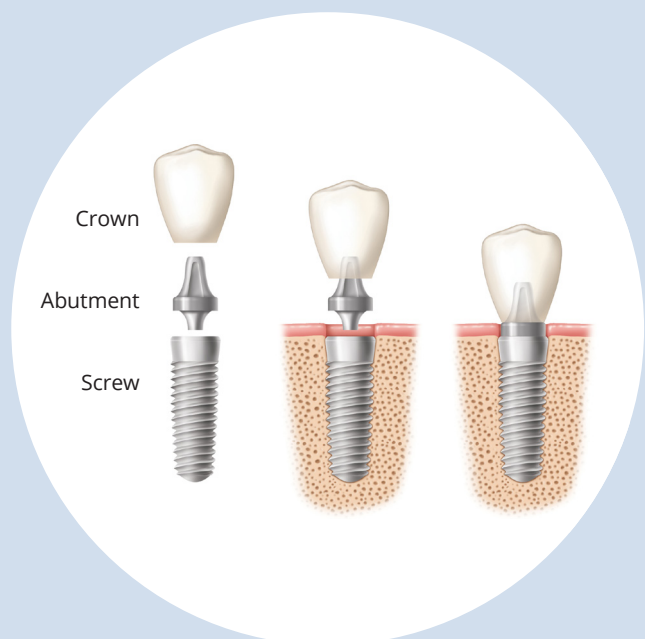


## What Are Dental Implants?

Dental implants are artificial tooth roots that hold a crown and are used to replace missing teeth. Unlike bridges or dentures, dental implants are a permanent solution that performs exactly like your natural teeth.

### How Do Dental Implants Work?

When you lose a tooth, you may experience rapid bone loss, changes in the shape of your jaw, impaired speech, or difficulty eating. Dental implants are inserted into the bone to keep your facial structure sound and replacement teeth solid and secure. Dental implants can replace a single tooth, multiple teeth next to each other, or an entire arch (all your teeth either on the top or bottom of your mouth, or both).



## What are the Benefits of Dental Implants?

- Dental implants look, feel and function like your natural teeth. Your bone structure is stabilized, making it possible to maintain your facial appearance and smile.
- Dental implants restore function by allowing you to chew, bite and eat any food without discomfort. Unlike removable dentures, they also enable you to speak normally.
- Dental implants improve dental health by preserving your bone structure, protecting gum tissue, and preventing deterioration in the surrounding teeth.
- Dental implants can help stabilize dentures and bridges. Some options for people with limited bone use dental implants to anchor removable dentures or bridges.

## What are the Major Types of Dental Implants?

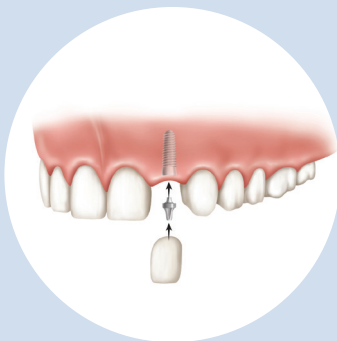
There are two major categories for dental implants:

### 1. Those that are anchored by your existing jawbone.

This technique is used for people with a strong bone structure that can support a dental implant over time.

- ### 2. Those that require building up the bone.
- For people with compromised or inadequate bone structure, a process known as bone grafting needs to take place before a dental implant can be inserted. Bone grafting builds up the bone tissue that will ultimately support a dental implant (which does add some time and cost for the procedure).

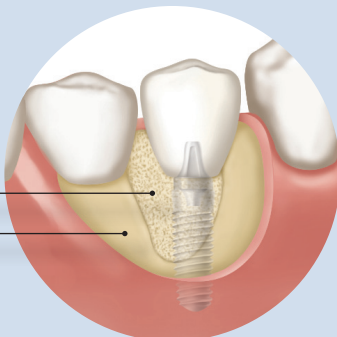
Dental implant anchored by your existing jawbone



Bone grafting builds up the bone tissue to support a dental implant

Bone Graft material

Existing Bone



## What Is the Process for Getting Dental Implants?

- 1. Find a Qualified Implant Expert.** The American Academy of Implant Dentistry (AAID) educates and trains dentists in implant dentistry. To find an AAID-credentialed dentist near you go to [www.aaid-implant.org](http://www.aaid-implant.org).
- 2. Assessment.** Your dental implant expert will conduct an in-depth evaluation of your general health, your oral health, and your missing teeth. This involves reviewing your medical history, including any medications you are taking, examining your oral health history, taking images of your mouth, and discussing your goals and concerns. The dentist uses this information to formulate a customized treatment plan that includes the type and style of your dental implants, the surgical procedure(s) recommended, pain management, and recovery/healing.
- 3. Dental Implant Placement.** For those having sufficient bone structure, the dentist drills a hole into the jawbone and secures the dental implant. The incision is closed, and a temporary covering is placed while the implant grows into the bone, a process known as osseointegration. New bone is embedded with the existing bone for those requiring bone grafting. The incision is closed, and time must pass while new bone grows. Again, a temporary covering protects the area from exposure and infection. Once healed, a dental implant is inserted surgically into the bone, followed by another healing period.
- 4. Abutment Placement.** Once the dental implant has fully healed, another surgical procedure connects the abutment to the implant and places the gum tissue around the area. It generally takes 2-3 weeks following this surgery for the area to heal fully.
- 5. Crown, Bridge, or Denture Placement.** Depending on your situation, an artificial covering will be placed on the abutment. A crown is put on a single implant and becomes a permanent tooth. For some people, the implant is inserted to create a stable base for bridges or dentures. In these cases, special devices click firmly on the abutments to secure the bridge or denture.



## Is Dental Implant Surgery Painful?

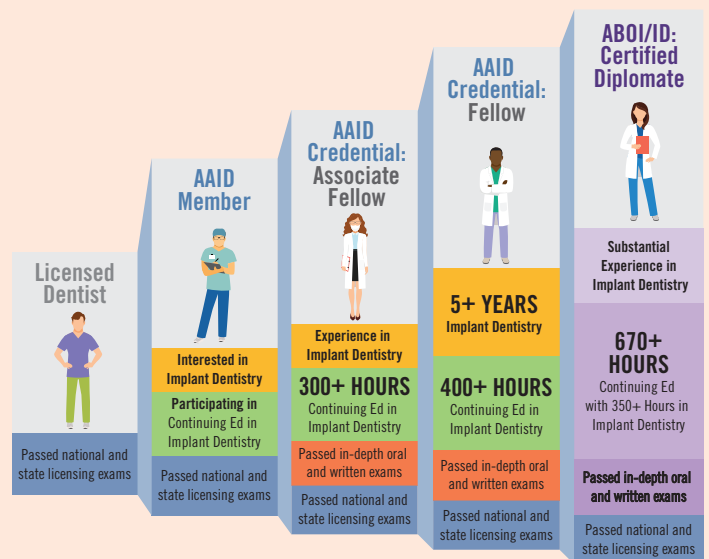
Most patients experience very little pain from dental implant surgery. Your doctor will discuss anesthesiology options for use during your surgeries that include local anesthesia (numbing the jaw and gums), sedation anesthesia (in addition to numbing the jaw and gums, intravenous anesthesia is used to keep the patient drowsy and relaxed), or general anesthesia, (which puts the patient into a deep sleep).

After your surgeries, you will be given a short course of prescription painkillers. After about a day, most patients don't need anything more than over-the-counter pain medicines, such as Tylenol® or Advil®. Generally, there is a slight swelling or bruising of the gums and face and possibly some minor bleeding at the implant site shortly after surgery. Still, these usually resolve in a couple of days.

## Find a Qualified Implant Expert

Like a fingerprint, your mouth is unique. It takes a dentist with advanced training and expertise to create the best-individualized treatment plan for you and deliver superior surgical outcomes. The American Academy of Implant Dentistry (AAID) offers leading education and training programs for implant dentists. By choosing an AAID-certified implant dentist, you know you're working with an expert with extensive education, hands-on training, and expertise that will make your dental implant surgery a success.

[AAID-Credentialed Dentist Finder](#)



AAID-Credentialed Implant Experts obtain advanced education, training and expert evaluations to become AAID-certified.

## Where Can I Learn More?

AAID has a website with extensive information from certified dental implant experts about everything associated with dental implants. Just go to [www.aaid-implant.org](http://www.aaid-implant.org)

Take a quiz to determine if you are a candidate for dental implants at <https://connect.aaid-implant.org/quiz-candidate>



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