



Dental Implants

Teeth play a vital role in eating, speaking and smiling. More than 30 million Americans are missing all of their teeth in one or both jaws.¹ Missing teeth affect the ability to chew properly and can affect diet since softer foods are easier to eat and often lack good nutrition. Missing teeth also make talking more difficult and can impact one's smile and confidence.

Why Choose Dental Implants?

Dental implants look natural and are a durable and comfortable treatment option for missing teeth. When you receive a dental implant, the dentist surgically places a small device in your jaw. The device adheres to your jawbone and becomes the base for the new artificial tooth.

Another treatment option for a missing tooth is a fixed bridge. However, a fixed bridge can damage nearby, otherwise healthy teeth, whereas an implant does not impact other teeth. To apply a fixed bridge, the dentist has to shave down and affix crowns to the teeth on each side of the missing tooth to keep the bridge in place. A fixed bridge may also eventually need to be replaced.

Implants can last for years and with good daily care, many can last a lifetime. In fact, 98 percent of implants last more than 10 years.

Some advantages of dental implants include:

- Long-term comfort and stability
- Proper chewing functions are restored
- They are closer to the look and feel of natural teeth
- Neighboring teeth are not affected

If you have a missing tooth, talk to your dentist about dental implants. Your dentist can recommend the best treatment option for you.

Visit **truassure.com** for more oral health resources and information.

¹ American Academy of Implant Dentistry:
http://www.aaid.com/about/press_room/dental_implants_faq.html