

THE 20
MOST
COMMON
DENTAL
IMPLANT
QUESTIONS
ANSWERED

“A PUBLICATION BY CCOMFS”

WHAT IS A DENTAL IMPLANT?

A dental implant is an artificial tooth root that an oral surgeon places into your jaw to hold a replacement tooth or bridge. Virtually all dental implants that are placed today are root-form endosseous implants. In other words, they look similar to a natural tooth root and are placed within the jaw bone. The jaw bone accepts and osseointegrates with the titanium post. Osseointegration refers to the fusion of the implant surface with the surrounding bone.



WHEN ARE DENTAL IMPLANTS USED?

Alternatives to dental implants have historically included dental bridges and dentures. Typically, conventional and cantilever bridges require the healthy teeth on either side of the missing few, to be ground down so the bridge will have two solid anchors to hold the crowns, which in turn, support a bridge consisting of a few artificial teeth. Long before dental implants were invented, dentures were the only tooth replacement option available. Dentists used Ivory, bone, and porcelain to create dentures because those materials were the closest substitute for natural teeth at the time. Although today, modern plastics have improved the quality of dentures, patients still experience an array of problems, especially if they have a full set of lower dentures. Denture wearers routinely suffer from pain and embarrassing slippage; in fact, many people never get used to the way their artificial teeth fit and feel. It's not uncommon for men and women who expected their dentures to mimic their original teeth, to stop wearing them altogether.

Dental implants have been developed to address the less than ideal characteristics of dental bridges and dentures.

WHO IS A CANDIDATE FOR DENTAL IMPLANTS?

No matter your age, young or mature adult; no matter whether you need to replace one tooth, several teeth or all your teeth, there is a dental implant plan that we can develop for your specific needs. While growing children are the obvious exception, dental implants are the tooth replacement solution of choice for people of all ages, even those with the following health concerns:

Existing Medical Conditions. Most people who have routine dental treatments performed can generally have dental implants placed. We will take the necessary precautions for certain conditions, however patients with chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes and even osteoporosis may be successful candidates for dental implant treatment.

Gum Disease or Problem Teeth. Almost all implants placed in patients who have lost their teeth to periodontal disease or decay have been successful.

Currently Wearing Partial or Dentures. Implants can replace removable bridges or dentures, or they can be used to attach and stabilize the denture, making it much more comfortable and secure.

Bone Loss. People who've lost many teeth or have periodontal (gum) disease will experience bone loss. With no tooth to "stress" the bone, it will eventually resorb. **Bone Grafting** rebuilds missing tissue so that an implant can be secured safely and permanently. Aesthetically, as the lower portion of the face withers, it will eventually look like an apple that's been left outdoors. Without a natural or artificial root, the jawbone will recede. The unfortunate condition referred to as resorption, occurs when men and women lose their teeth. Even one missing tooth allows the rest of the teeth to shift. A good analogy is that of a solid brick wall. When all the bricks are held tightly in place by one another, the wall is strong and sturdy. But, as with missing teeth, if one brick is removed, the others will crumble too.

Implant tooth replacement for children is usually delayed until their jaw growth is complete. There are, however, some instances when a dental implant may be appropriate, such as when it is part of the child's orthodontic treatment plan. We will partner with your family dentist or orthodontist to guide you in this instance.

ARE DENTAL IMPLANTS SAFE?

Dental implants are amongst the safest and most successful implantable medical device. Implant placement is an invasive technique but is usually minimally invasive and administered with a local anesthetic. The success of dental implants is typically in the upper 90's%.

DO DENTAL IMPLANTS WORK?

The high success rate of dental implants is well documented in the world's scientific literature. Over the last 20 years, CCOMFS has played an integral role in surgically placing and tracking many implants. These implants then had crowns and dentures placed on them by a wide variety of excellent restorative dentists in the Washington DC and national dental community.

At the beginning of 2008, more than 10,000 implants with an overall survival rate of 97% had been placed in our patients. These results are reflected in many other publications worldwide and are further evidence of the predictability of dental implants.

WHAT IF I AM A SMOKER?

Smoking does lower the success rate of implants and generally makes healing from any oral surgery procedure more difficult. It doesn't, however, eliminate the possibility of getting dental implants.

WHAT ARE COMMON COMPLICATIONS OF DENTAL IMPLANT SURGERY?

As with any surgery, there are inherent risks to dental implant surgery. However, at the hands of a skilled Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon, a very low incidence of complications can be expected. The most common complication due to dental implant placement is swelling.

There is also a small risk of infection at the surgical site and the possibility that the dental implant will not osseointegrate. These risks can be mitigated with proper oral hygiene and following your surgeon's instructions.

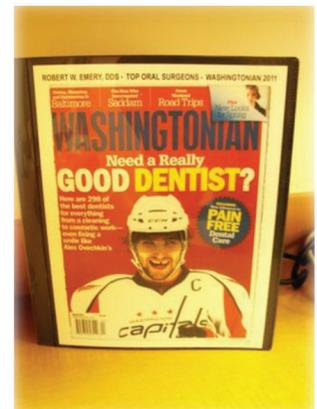
After placing thousands of implants, the success rate in this office is 97%.

HOW DO I CHOOSE THE RIGHT DR. FOR DENTAL IMPLANTS?

Choosing the right Dr. to perform your dental implant surgery is essential. Improperly placed implants can cause the final restorations to look unnatural, possibly necessitating the surgery be done a 2nd time at added cost and expense.

Many general dentists attend a weekend course and then offer dental implant placement to their patients. After dental school, oral surgeons attend another four years of training, often at a hospital, called a residency. During this residency, they gain important hands-on experience placing dental implants.

Also, both Dr. Emery and Dr. Ryan are Board Certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. This means that after the four-year oral surgery program they had to prepare for and pass additional tests. Not all oral surgeons decide to take this extra step of certification. The American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery exist to ensure that oral surgeons meet the high standards it has set.



WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH DENTAL IMPLANTS?

Over the last 20 years, CCOMFS has played an integral role in surgically placing and tracking many implants. These implants then had crowns and dentures placed on them by a wide variety of excellent restorative dentists in the Washington DC area and national dental community.

At the beginning of 2008, more than 10,000 implants with an overall survival rate of 97% had been placed in our patients. This database tracked the following:

- The number of implants placed:> 10,000
- The average period of follow-up: 66 months
- The gender of the patient: 54% female, 46% male
- Age range: 9 to 94 years
- The location of the implant: 52% lower jaw, 48% upper jaw
- Long-term survival by jaw: 98% lower jaw, 96% upper jaw

These results are reflected in many other publications worldwide and are further evidence of the predictability of dental implants.

WHAT DOES THE CONSULTATION CONSIST OF?

The consultation is a meeting where we will decide together if dental implants are the right treatment option for you. Typically, you will come into our office and fill out the patient history paperwork. Then you will meet with our highly trained nurses to go over your history and any other medical questions they may have.

This is the time when we take X-Rays, usually using our i-CAT machine.



WHAT ELSE IS IN THIS PROCESS?

After meeting with our nurses and getting the proper images, you will then meet with your surgeon who will talk you through the procedure, answer any questions you may have and start to create your custom treatment plan.

Finally, you will meet with our business office to set up your appointments and discuss financial and reimbursement arrangements.

Our mission is to provide you with the highest level of care available in a warm and comfortable setting.

HOW ARE DENTAL IMPLANTS PLACED?

For most patients, the placement of dental implants involves two surgical procedures. First, implants are placed within your jawbone. For the first two to four months following surgery, the implants are beneath the surface of the gums gradually bonding with the jawbone. You should be able to wear temporary dentures and eat a soft diet during this time. At the same time, your dentist is forming new replacement teeth.

After the implant has bonded to the jawbone, the second phase begins. Dr. Emery will uncover the implants and attach small posts that protrude through the gums and will act as anchors for the artificial teeth. When the artificial teeth are placed, these posts will not be seen.

HOW LONG WILL THE PROCESS TAKE?

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After the implant has bonded to the jawbone, the second phase begins. Dr. Emery will uncover the implants and attach small posts that protrude through the gums and will act as anchors for the artificial teeth. When the artificial teeth are placed, these posts will not be seen. The entire procedure usually takes six to eight months. Most patients experience minimal disruption in their daily life.



WILL DENTAL IMPLANT PLACEMENT HURT?

During the actual surgery, you will either be sedated, or we will administer local anesthesia. Our patients typically report little to no discomfort during the dental implant placement.

Most patients can manage any post-surgical pain they may experience with over the counter pain medications like Tylenol or Advil. You will leave our office with detailed instruction on post care of your new dental implants, including pain management should you need it.

WHAT IS A BONE GRAFT AND WHY WOULD I NEED ONE?

A dental bone graft is sometimes required when there is not enough bone to support the implant. Often, over time and when a tooth is missing, the underlying bone tends to resorb, or melt away. When there is not enough bone to support the implant, our Drs. will perform a bone graft procedure along with the dental implant placement.

With modern technology, Dr. Emery can regenerate that lost bone to provide enough bone to support an implant. There are many materials available with unique advantages or different applications.

WHAT IS THE RECOVERY PERIOD?

With any surgery, the recovery period varies depending on the procedure and individual patient tolerances. When multiple implants are placed, the question can be answered as follows:

1. Prescription pain medication is usually necessary for 2-3 days
2. Swelling associated with the procedure varies but usually peaks within 24-36 hours then steadily returns to normal in 3-5 days
3. Patients are often able to return to work 2-3 days following the surgery if facial swelling is not a concern
4. Normal physical activity and exercise can also resume at about the same time based on personal tolerance

For single implant cases, there is generally no swelling, a minimum of pain requiring pain medication the day of the procedure only, and patients are able to return to their normal routine the following day. In both cases, slight tenderness in the oral tissues may persist for 1-2 weeks as the tissues fully heal.

DO DENTAL IMPLANTS REQUIRE SPECIAL OR COMPLEX CARE?

Good oral hygiene is essential to good healing. The night before surgery, use the prescribed Peridex Oral Rinse before bed. The day after surgery, the Peridex should be used twice daily, after breakfast and before bed. Be sure to rinse for at least 30 seconds then spit it out. War salt-water rinses (one teaspoon of salt in a cup of warm water) should be used for at least four to five times a day, as well, especially after meals.

After your implants have been restored and a crown has been placed it is important to practice excellent oral hygiene. Care of a restored dental implant is much like care for your natural teeth.

Colgate Toothpaste has created an online guide to caring for dental implants. You can find that [HERE](#).

Additionally, CCOMFS has a long-term implant care system in place. Annual visits with Implant Care Specialist help ensure a problem-free future with implants!

HOW LONG WILL DENTAL IMPLANTS LAST?

With proper care and maintenance, you can expect to keep your dental implants for a lifetime.

HOW MUCH DO DENTAL IMPLANTS COST?

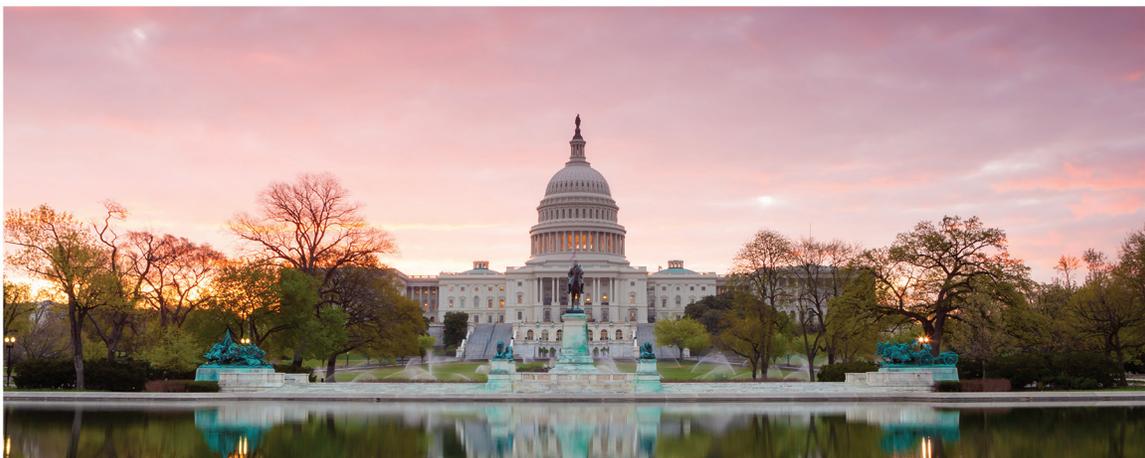
At CCOMFS single tooth dental implant placement starts at \$2910 (2012 fees).

DOES DENTAL INSURANCE COVER PAY FOR DENTAL IMPLANTS?

Insurance companies are starting to recognize dental implants as the standard of care and, as such, cover some of the costs.

At CCOMFS it is our policy to collect the fees for implant placement directly from our patients. However, we are happy to submit all forms to your insurance company on your behalf. They will then reimburse you directly as per your individual level of coverage.

We are pleased to accept checks, Visa, Master Card, Discover, and American Express. Also, for our patients wishing to finance, we offer CareCredit payment options.



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IMPLANT CONSULTATION

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