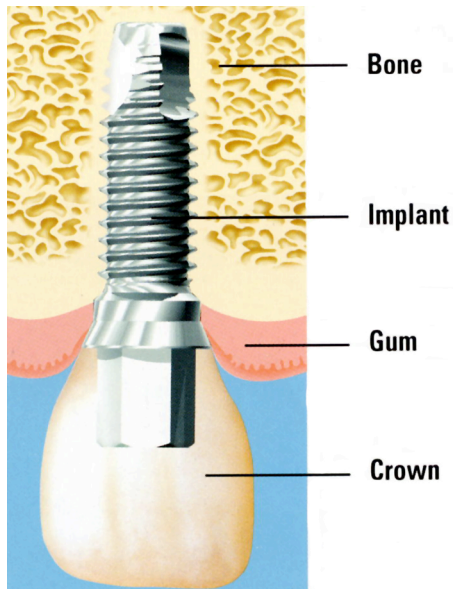




IMPLANTS



Overview

Dental implants have a proven longevity with success rates of above 95% over 10 years. It is the only treatment that replaces missing teeth permanently without compromising adjacent teeth. Implants benefit patients who have been unable or unwilling to wear removable or fixed bridges. They can be an excellent source of anchorage for patients with loose or ill-fitting dentures and are both functional and aesthetic.

Implants are more costly than other treatments and require surgery to place the implant. A bone graft or second surgery may be required if bone quantity or quality is insufficient at the implant site.

Treatment Time

Surgical placement time per implant is approximately one hour depending on the complexity of the procedure. Healing time varies from a few weeks to several months while the implant permanently attaches to the bone. After healing, another appointment may be necessary to uncover the implant and place a healing cap so your dentist can construct a final crown.

Patient Maintenance

Daily flossing and home care as instructed by your dentist. Professional cleanings four times per year. Exam by a restorative dentist at least once a year. Ensure your hygienist is aware of the presence of the implant and uses appropriate plastic instruments.

Results of Treatment

Best approximates having your own natural tooth (or teeth). Provides tooth that is natural appearing and individually functioning. Avoids unnecessary tooth structure removal on natural adjacent teeth.

Average Range of Treatment Life Expectancy

Once successfully integrated into the bone, the implant can last indefinitely, barring infection. The life expectancy of the restoration will be the same as described for a crown: five to fifteen years.¹

Cost

Fees vary based on the difficulty of the procedure, individual variables, history and expectations.

Ref: Change Your Smile, 3rd ed., Ronald E. Goldstein, DDS

¹ This estimate is based on clinical experience combined with university research studies and insurance company estimates. Your own experience could be different. I have seen poor-fitting crowns and fillings last over forty years in the mouth of a patient who cleans often and well. I have also seen well-fitting restorations last less than two years in the mouth of a patient whose diet and oral hygiene were poor. Medical factors, such as certain diseases, can also play a major role in the life of your restorations. Your experience will depend on many factors, only some of which you and your dentist can control.