



ALL-ON-4 DENTAL IMPLANTS

AN ALTERNATIVE TO DENTURES

Pasha Hakimzadeh, DDS

MEDICAL INFORMATION DISCLAIMER:

This book is not intended as a substitute for the medical advice of physicians. The reader should regularly consult a physician in matters relating to his/her health and particularly with respect to any symptoms that may require diagnosis or medical attention. The authors and publisher specifically disclaim any responsibility for any liability, loss, or risk, personal or otherwise, which is incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of the use and application of any of the contents of this book.

TABLE OF CONTENT

Introduction	4
Why Implants Are Necessary	5
Ancient History	6
All About Dental Implants.	7
Related Procedures	8
Implant for a Single Tooth.	8
Implants for Multiple Teeth (All-on-4 Procedure)	9
The Implant Procedure	10
Caring for Dental Implants	11
Financing Dental Implants.	12

INTRODUCTION

Losing one or more teeth can cause all sorts of dental problems. Misalignment or excessive wear of the remaining teeth, chewing difficulties, problems with oral hygiene and even nutritional deficiencies can result from missing teeth. While dentures were once the only solution, today you also have the option of dental implants, which can look just like (or even better than) the original teeth.



WHY IMPLANTS ARE NECESSARY

Losing teeth doesn't just mean the tooth is lost — a number of other negative effects can occur:

- Bone Loss - the mechanism of chewing promotes healthy bone formation. When a tooth is lost, the bone in that area is no longer stimulated during chewing.
- When multiple teeth are lost, the jawbone shrinks, the lower third of the face shortens, and the cheeks and lips become hollow.
- Dental hygiene can be more difficult with missing teeth.
- Remaining teeth may shift into the open space; this can cause alignment problems and uneven wear.



Implants resolve all of these problems and also improve your appearance. A multiple tooth implant like the All-on-4 can replace all of the teeth in the upper or lower jaw; two All-on-4 implants can replace both sets, and can be inserted in a single procedure.

ANCIENT HISTORY

The dental implant of today seems like the most modern of technology, but dental implants have actually been around for thousands of years. Ancient Egyptians were using gold wires to stabilize teeth as early as 2500 BC. By 500 BC, Etruscans used bones from oxen to replace missing teeth, and Phoenicians used teeth carved from ivory and fixed with gold wires as early as 300 AD. Mayans used pieces of shells in 600 AD, which when X-rayed in the 1970s showed bone formation that looks very much like that seen in modern implants.



ALL ABOUT DENTAL IMPLANTS

Healthy teeth include both the upper portion (the actual tooth) and a strong root that attaches the tooth to the jawbone. Titanium is bio-active, which means it will bond with the bone in the jaw to ensure a solid attachment. Dental implants consist of three pieces:

- A titanium root - this is a screw that is placed into the jaw bone and mimics the original tooth root.
- Abutment - this titanium or zirconia piece is screwed onto the root and mimics the prepared tooth that will retain the final crown.
- Crown attachment - a porcelain prosthesis that mimics the natural crown or top part of the tooth.

Whatever the reason for missing teeth, dental implants are used to solve the problem. An implant can be used to replace a single tooth, or several implants can provide the base to attach several missing teeth. Even when it's obvious that a tooth cannot be salvaged, some people try, when it would actually be better to remove the tooth and replace it with a dental implant. One of the advantages of dental implants is that unlike dentures — which actually accelerate bone loss in the jaw — an implant stimulates the bone during the chewing process, which makes it stronger and prevents bone loss.



RELATED PROCEDURES

Sometimes advance work is needed prior to a dental implant. For example, one key to a successful implant is adequate bone in the upper or lower jaw. Several procedures are used to ensure success. A bone graft uses donor bone or bone from the patient's body to provide adequate strong bone for the implant. A sinus lift is used to elevate the sinus membrane to provide more room for an implant, while a ridge modification can ensure the area just above the bottom teeth or below the top teeth is wide and strong enough to support the implant.

IMPLANT FOR A SINGLE TOOTH

Replacing a single missing tooth is a relatively simple office-based procedure. The dentist numbs the area, makes an incision (cut) in the gum and taps or screws in the implant, which is basically a



small metal post. After healing – which takes several months to ensure a strong bond between the implant and the jaw bone – you'll return for at least one more visit to have a prosthetic tooth fastened to the post. In some cases, the dentist attaches the prosthetic tooth at the time of surgery. During the healing period, you must usually stay on a soft diet to promote healing and prevent damage from chewing hard foods.

IMPLANTS FOR MULTIPLE TEETH (ALL-ON-4 PROCEDURE)

Replacing multiple teeth or all of the teeth often requires the use of a general anesthetic in an outpatient surgery center. A procedure called an All-on-4 allows as few as four implants to support all of the prosthetic teeth in either the upper or lower jaw. Although technically more complex, an All-on-4 procedure is much more cost-effective and efficient, compared to the possibility of replacing 28 or more individual teeth with individual implants and the patient will go home with permanent stable dentures in one day.

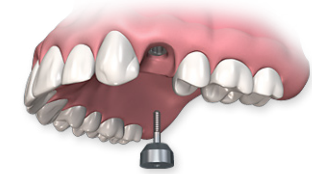
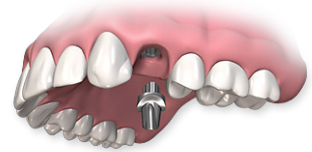
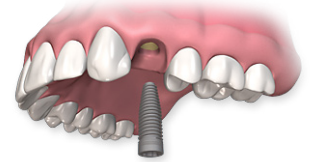


With an All-on-4 procedure, the implants are strategically placed and connected to a support containing the prosthetic teeth (think of a table with four supporting legs) to provide stabilization and effective support for the new teeth. The All-on-4 procedure is the result of years of research, development and experimentation, and offers you the opportunity to resolve the problem of missing teeth with a highly functional solution that only takes one major procedure.

THE IMPLANT PROCEDURE

Several steps are required for dental implants:

- The first step in the dental implant process (whether for a single implant or an All-on-4) is an assessment of the remaining teeth, gums and bone so the dentist can identify and plan for things like the size and length of the implant and prosthetic teeth, and the amount of lip and facial structure support needed.
- X-rays and CT scans produce pictures of the facial structures and teeth to help in the assessment process. The dentist will use digital pictures from the CT scans to produce computer-generated pictures of the implants and determine the ideal position for each implant.
- The surgery requires the use of anesthetics, and many procedures can be performed together, such as tooth extractions, bone shaping and implant placement.
- After recovery from the anesthesia, you may be fitted with temporary prosthetic teeth, which stay in place for about three months, or until healing is complete. During this period, your dentist will give you specific instructions about oral care and diet to prevent injury and promote healing.
- After the implants have healed, you'll return for fitting and attachment of the new prosthetic teeth.



CARING FOR DENTAL IMPLANTS

During the healing process, you'll follow your dentist's specific instructions, but for the first few days, mouthwashes and salt water rinses rather than brushing are the norm. Although there is no risk of decay with prosthetic teeth, you should still plan to floss and brush to remove food particles and keep the tooth surface clean. Regular oral hygiene is also necessary to prevent bad breath. Finally, oral hygiene helps promote healthy gums, and gum disease can still occur after implant surgery. Your dentist will make recommendations regarding annual or biannual checkups. Dental implants usually last a long time, but proper care will help ensure that you are doing everything you can to keep your mouth and gums healthy.



FINANCING DENTAL IMPLANTS

There are many ways that we can help you achieve the smile of your dreams so you can eat as if you had your natural teeth back.

We work with third party financing companies that can help you get your treatment with no money down and minimal payments each month. An alternative is to request a medical payment from your 401k or IRA to help pay for your dental treatment, penalty free and with pre tax dollars. We also work with lenders that can help pay for your treatment using the equity of your home.

Call our office for a consultation with one of our experienced doctors today.



ABOUT OUR PRACTICE



Dr. Hadis Reyhani, Dr. Ben Reyhani, and Dr. Pasha Hakimzadeh, DDS, provide a wealth of combined experience, along with innovative technology and personalized care, to help improve our patients' dental health so they can enjoy smiling again.

We provide you with a luxurious treatment. A visit to the dentist can be a scary thought, but at Downey

Family Cosmetic Dentistry we are committed to providing a comforting dental experience that begins the moment you check in and doesn't end until you leave the building. From the inviting, spa-like atmosphere with exam-room televisions, free WiFi, complimentary snacks, beverages, and warm face towels, to our friendly, experienced doctors and staff, we want to ensure your visit is as special as we can make it.



CONTACT DOWNEY FAMILY COSMETIC DENTISTRY

9212 Lakewood Boulevard
Downey, California 90240

P (562) 645-4563 | info@downeyfamilydentistry.com | downeyfamilydentistry.com

