



# DENTAL IMPLANTS

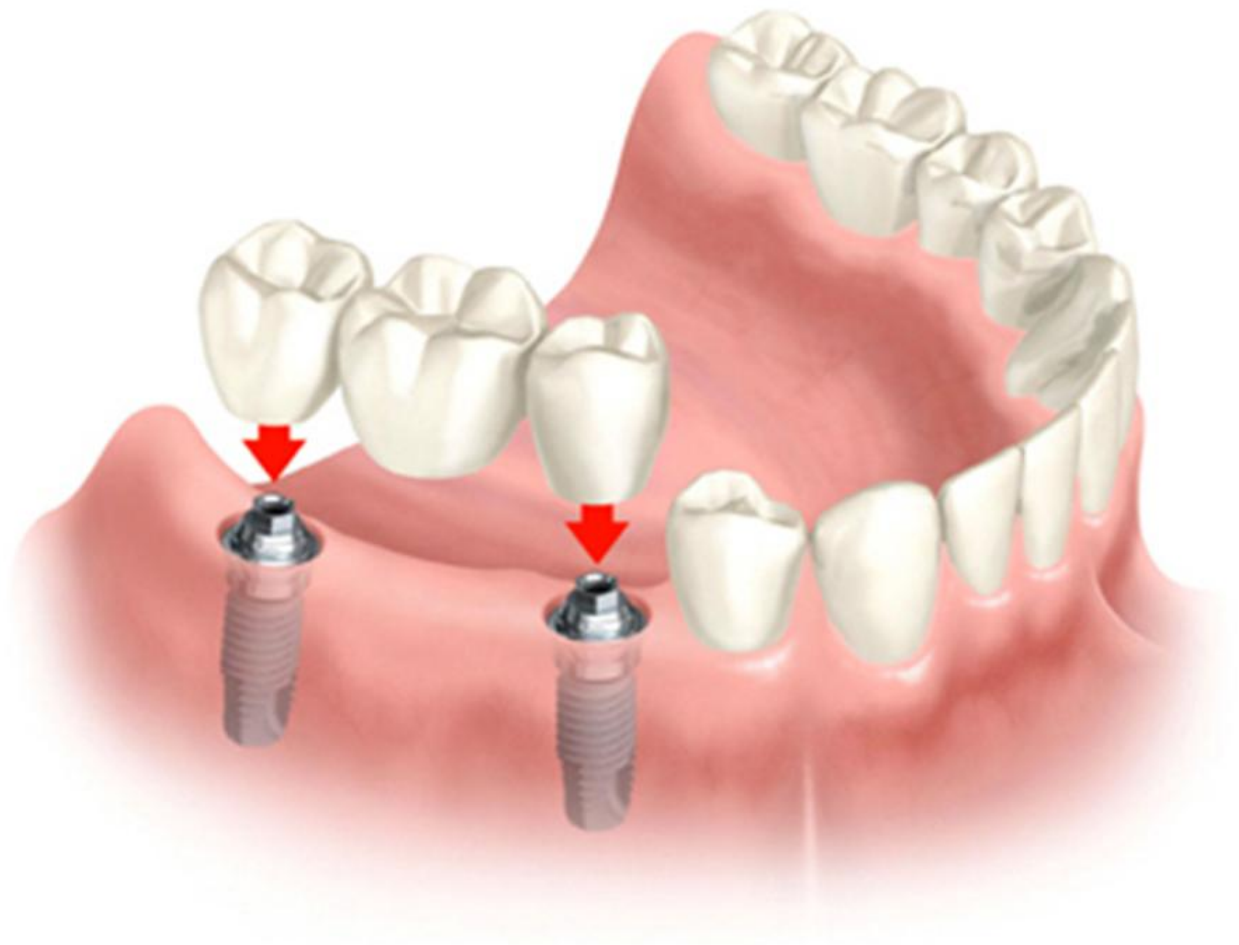
MOST EFFECTIVE TEETH REPLACEMENT

Ben Reyhani, DDS • Pasha Hakimzadeh, DDS

## INTRODUCTION

Dental implants are a permanent and highly effective solution for those seeking structural and aesthetic improvements after tooth loss.

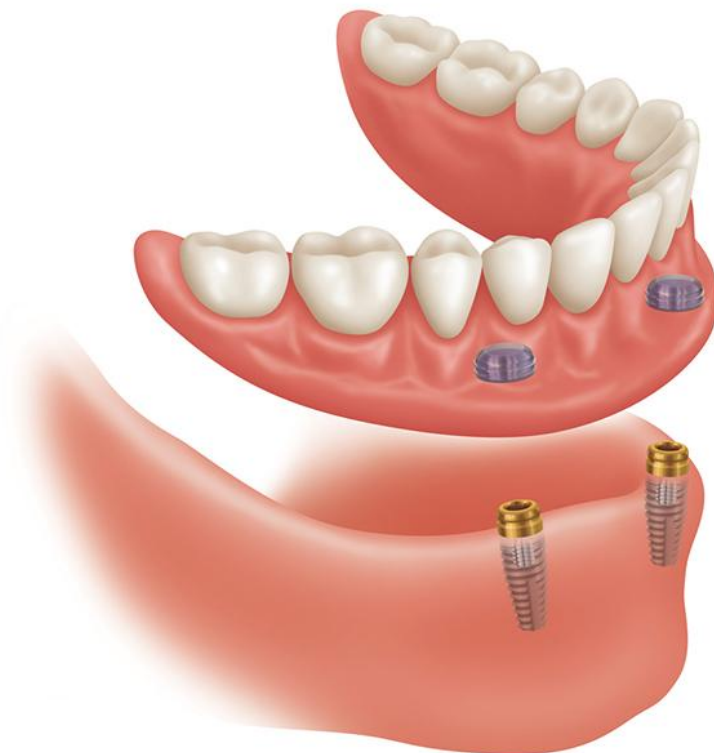
These free-standing structures are installed directly into the jawbone and can support dental crowns, partial dentures, and complete dentures. They can complete and restore the smile while limiting the likelihood of continued bone and tooth loss.



## DENTAL IMPLANTS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO DENTURES

Surprisingly, dental implants are not just for people who need to replace one or two teeth. New innovations in these treatments have made it possible for consumers to secure implants that correct whole mouth tooth loss. Commonly referred to as implant-retained dentures, these implants firmly affix artificial teeth to dental implant posts for ease of use, greater comfort, and increased confidence.

Unlike traditional dentures that can slip, slide, and often require adhesives, implant-retained dentures don't move until you want them to. These structures function and look just like the patient's own natural teeth. Thus, there is no worry of embarrassing slips or other issues while conversing with friends or enjoying a meal.



## HOW TO KNOW IF DENTAL IMPLANTS ARE RIGHT FOR YOU

If you have lost one or more teeth, dental implants could be right for you. In addition to restoring smile aesthetics, implants can also preserve the health and structural integrity of your remaining teeth. Whenever a tooth is pulled or lost, the body suspends the flow of nutrients to the underlying bone structure; thereby, causing increased deterioration in the jawbone. Having a dental implant installed will prompt the body to restore the supply of calcium and other essential minerals for jaw health.

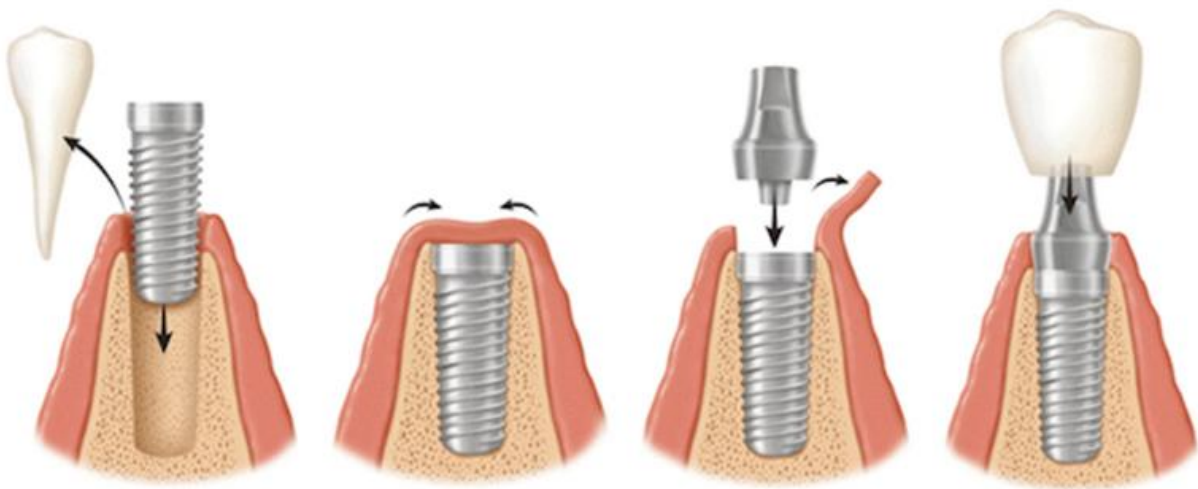
While implants themselves do not require nutritional support, it is necessary for patients to have strong, healthy jaw structures. People should also have healthy gums that are infection-free. Problems like tooth decay and other oral health issues could compromise the long-term success of these procedures.



## THE DENTAL IMPLANT PROCEDURE: WHAT TO EXPECT

Although many people think that posts are simply placed in empty sockets, this is a very complex and precise process. Diagnostic imaging is used to obtain a clear view of the jawbone. This will ensure that the post can be correctly positioned for optimal absorption of pressure.

During the actual implant placement surgery, local anesthesia will be used to numb the treatment area and limit discomfort. When preferred by the patient, and safe to use, dental sedation can be employed as well. The titanium implant post will be placed within the pre-determined area of the jawbone. It will be necessary to wait four to six months for the jawbone to heal before crowns or dentures are installed.





## DENTAL IMPLANT RECOVERY AND AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS

After their titanium posts have been installed, patients are advised against drinking excessively hot or cold beverages and swirling liquids around the mouth. It is also best to avoid touching or disturbing the treatment area with the tongue or fingers.

Following the initial procedure for dental implants, people often experience moderate swelling and discomfort at the treatment site. Ice packs and Ibuprofen can be used to alleviate these symptoms; however, they are likely to abate on their own, even without these measures.



## WHY YOU SHOULD AVOID "CHEAP" DENTAL IMPLANTS

Much like all other low-cost products, for creating structural or aesthetic improvements to your smile, "cheap" dental implants do not provide optimal value. Low-quality materials and substandard installation will not provide the best and longest lasting benefits.

When it comes to your health and smile, there should not be any compromise.

