

## What is an Implant?

One of the most revolutionary advances in the field of dentistry over the last 50 years has been the development and generalized use of dental implants. Dental implants are artificial devices that are implanted into the jaw bones to replace the roots of teeth.

Most dental implants are similar to the shapes of the roots of front teeth. Dental implants are threaded cylinders or are cone shaped. When the implant is placed in bone, a healing process occurs. The bone next to the implant grows tight around the implant and locks it into place. This allows the implant to function like the root of a tooth.

Dental implants are remarkable substitutions for the roots of lost teeth. The dental implant is placed in the jawbone in a relatively simple procedure. In many cases, implants are placed while the individual is awake with the use of local anesthetic (freezing). In many situations, having a dental implant placed is as easy as having a filling done.

Dental implants can be used in many wonderful ways. They can act as a replacement root for a lost tooth, and a crown (cap) can be placed on top to make the final restoration look like a real tooth. Several implants can be placed when several teeth are missing to provide support for a full arch of teeth. In these situations teeth that are similar to dentures can be anchored to the implants providing great looking, comfortable teeth that function in a manner similar to natural teeth. Dental implants can also be used as anchors to allow Orthodontists to straighten teeth in difficult situations.

Whatever use applies to your situation, you will be benefiting from one of the most advanced procedures that exist today in the treatment of tooth loss.

Implants have been referred to as a third set of teeth. Dental implants can improve the quality of life for many individuals.