



## REPLACING TEETH WITH DENTAL IMPLANTS

Have you known someone who is missing one or more teeth? Have you noticed their cheeks or face sunken in or extra dark spaces around their teeth when they smile? According to the American Dental Association, more than 100 million people are missing from 11 to 15 teeth. Many people put up with these conditions because they don't know that they have choices. Today, dental implants give anyone the choice to have their full complement of teeth, to be able to smile confidently, to eat whatever they want, and to feel great about their dental health.

Dental implants are small titanium fixtures that are placed in the bone of the upper or lower jaw. They serve as man-made substitutes for the root portion of lost natural teeth, and act as an anchor for replacement teeth. Dental implants can be used to replace a single lost tooth or many missing teeth. Research and documented scientific studies have proven the effectiveness and long lasting results of implants. You can rely on your new teeth to look, feel and function like natural teeth for years to come. Dental implants are appropriate for almost anyone who is missing teeth or is at risk of losing teeth. Occasionally, older people express concerns that their age may prevent them from enjoying the benefits that dental implants offer. However, health is more of a determining factor than age. If you're healthy enough to have a tooth removed, you're probably healthy enough to receive dental implants. You are a candidate for dental implants if:

1. you have enough jaw bone, and dense enough bone, to secure the implants, and
2. you do not have a disease or condition that interferes with proper healing after implant surgery such as uncontrolled diabetes, or radiation/chemotherapy for treating cancer. The success rate for dental implants is over 98%. However, smoking will bring down the success rate to 77%. In documented studies involving over 135 people who had dental implants over 10 years ago, 95% of them said they would do the procedures all over again. The benefits of eating comfortably, smiling confidently, and feeling secure with your teeth give people a reason to recommend dental implants to others.

People choose dental implants because the result is a permanent natural appearing tooth. You can replace one or many teeth with dental implants. You can support a dental bridge or a denture with implants. Since the dental implants replace the tooth root and serves as an anchor, your new tooth or teeth are secured directly on the implant. This treatment allows teeth to be restored naturally, without harming or involving your surrounding teeth. When dental implants are used to secure a denture, it eliminates the need to use adhesives to hold your dentures in place. Now, instead of your teeth slipping

and sliding around with ill-fitting dentures, you can speak with confidence in a relaxed and natural tone. In addition, dental implants can restore your chewing efficiency as you eat most foods with comfort and pleasure.

So, now in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century it is possible for all people to have their full complement of teeth, even if they have lost one or 15 teeth over their lifetime. Dental implants give them the freedom to choose a lifestyle of comfort, security, independence, and confidence.

**Dr. Foltz practices dentistry in Norcross, GA and can be reached at (770) 449-0099.**