What you should know

Restore your smile with dental implants

It’s unpleasant to have missing teeth. A gap in your smile can make you self-conscious and affect the way your jaw closes. It’s harder to chew, and food can get caught in the empty spaces, increasing your risk for tooth decay and gum disease. In addition, when a tooth is lost, the supporting jaw bone begins to break down. Over time, your other teeth can tilt into the empty space, creating bite problems.

Dentists often replace missing teeth with dentures or bridge replacements. But now there’s a more effective option: dental implants. Dental implants are replacement teeth with the same look and feel as your natural teeth.

How do dental implants work?

A dental implant is a small, sturdy artificial tooth root, made of a material such as titanium. The implant, which acts like a natural tooth root, is placed in your jaw bone. After the bone grows around the implant, it can hold a crown, bridge or over-denture.

If you lose a tooth, it’s important to replace it as soon as possible to avoid changes in your bite. Once installed, implants are very durable and can last a lifetime. They require the same care as natural teeth, including brushing, flossing and regular dental checkups.

In brief:

- Dental implants are replacement teeth that look and feel like natural teeth
- Dental implants feel comfortable and secure because they actually fuse to your jaw bone
- Most adults are good candidates for dental implants as long as they have healthy gums and adequate bone structure
Who can get a dental implant?

Dental implants are ideal for people with good oral health who have lost one or more teeth due to an injury or gum disease. Candidates for dental implants must have healthy gums and adequate bone to support the implant. They must also be committed to taking good care of the implanted teeth and surrounding gums. Dental implants are not recommended for smokers, those with gum disease and people with uncontrolled chronic diseases.

If you need to have a tooth replaced, check with your dentist to see if a dental implant is right for you. Implants offer a high level of stability, comfort and sense of freedom for those who have missing teeth — giving you something to truly smile about.