

Loose Dentures? Sports Injuries? Missing Teeth?

A better quality of life is just part of the beauty of dental implants.

Guide to Dental Implants

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It's not just about adding years to your life,
it's also about adding life to your years.

*Today's lifestyle requires today's solutions.
Dental implants may restore speech, chewing
ability and confidence.*



Dental Implants are Replacement Tooth Roots

Dental implants allow replacement of the entire missing tooth, which was never before possible. Implant supported replacement teeth look, feel and function like natural teeth.

The most common type of dental implants are root-form implants, which basically means that they are replacement, or substitute tooth roots, used to replace natural tooth roots in areas of the mouth where teeth are missing. These dental implants are made of surgical grade titanium compounds. There are no known allergies to this metal and it has been proven to be very safe as an implant material.

The reason it is so important to replace the tooth root as well as the visible part of the tooth (crown) is that natural tooth roots preserve the bone.



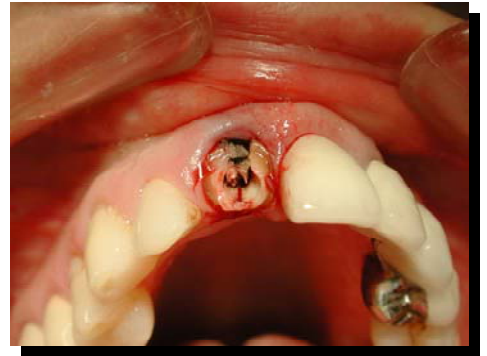
When teeth are missing, the bone that previously supported those teeth melts away, or deteriorates. This process is called bone resorption. The impact of deteriorating bone from complete tooth loss includes collapsed facial profiles, lost lip support, increased wrinkles around the mouth and the appearance of a pointed nose and chin that are too close together.

However, the bone can be preserved by replacing missing tooth roots with dental implants. Since the bone actually forms a strong bond to the implants, they can serve the same functions as natural tooth roots: a strong foundation for biting and chewing, and stimulation for the bone to hold it in place.

Dental implants help preserve bone after tooth loss.

Benefits of Dental Implants

- Overall quality of life is enhanced with replacement teeth that look, feel and function like natural teeth. With implant supported replacement teeth, the appearance of the smile is more natural and the teeth function more like natural teeth. The result is increased comfort and confidence when smiling, speaking, and eating. If dentures and partials are replaced with implant supported teeth, the overall enhancement in quality of life is even more significant, with an ability to eat all types of foods, elimination of messy adhesives, and improved speech, comfort and appearance.



- Preserves integrity of facial structures. By preventing the bone resorption that would normally occur with the loss of teeth, the facial structures remain intact. This is particularly important when all of the teeth are missing, as the lower one-third of the face collapses if implants are not placed to preserve the bone.

- Better health due to improved nutrition and proper digestion. People with dentures usually have problems eating certain foods, such as fresh vegetables and fruits, which can compromise their nutrition. Additionally, since it is difficult to chew properly with dentures, digestion is often compromised!

- Adjacent teeth are not compromised to replace missing teeth. Tooth replacement with traditional tooth-supported bridges requires grinding down the teeth adjacent to the missing tooth/teeth, so that the bridge can be cemented onto them. This tooth structure can never be replaced and the long-term health of these teeth is compromised.



Benefits of Dental Implants

- Partial dentures have clasps that hook onto adjacent teeth, putting pressure on them as the partial rocks back and forth. Eventually these teeth can loosen and come out as a result of this pressure. Replacing missing teeth with implant supported crowns/bridges does not involve the adjacent natural teeth, so they are not compromised, or damaged.

- Convenience of hygiene. It is much easier to care for an implant supported crown, which can be cleaned like a natural tooth. In comparison, a tooth supported bridge requires the use of a floss threader for proper cleaning. It is also more convenient to clean implant supported replacement teeth than a denture.

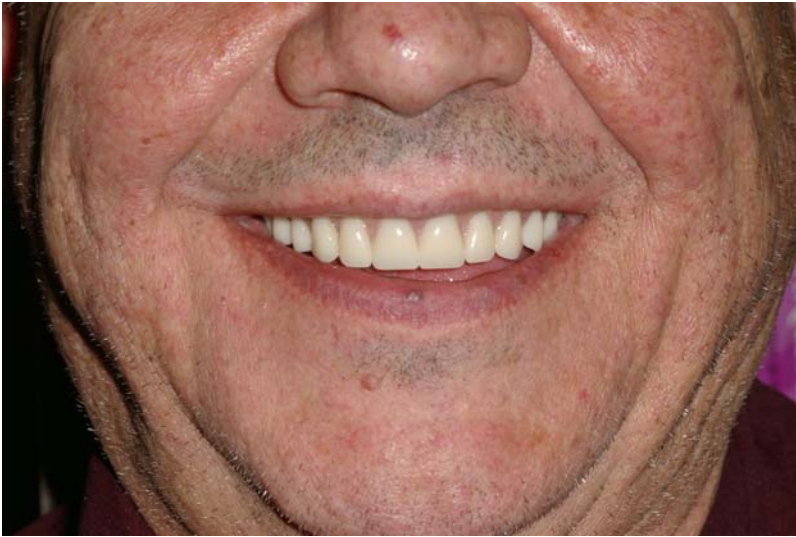


- Elimination of denture adhesives. Since implant supported teeth are securely attached to the implants, there is no need for messy denture adhesives, which are often needed to keep dentures from falling out.

- The mouth is restored as closely as possible to its natural state. By replacing the entire tooth, including the root, it is possible to replicate the function of natural teeth, with a strong, stable foundation that allows comfortable biting and chewing. In addition, nothing in the mouth looks, or feels artificial.

- Increased stability and a sense of security that teeth will not fall out when eating, laughing or sneezing. People who wear dentures often worry that their dentures will fall out when they laugh, sneeze and sometimes even when they eat. Since the bone bonds to the implants, replacement teeth have a stable foundation and are securely attached to the implants, so there is no fear that teeth will fall out.

Benefits of Dental Implants



- Improved appearance. Since implants preserve bone, preventing deterioration of the facial structures, appearance is improved. Collapse of the lower one-third of the face caused by complete tooth loss can be visually corrected and the remaining bone preserved. The appearance of wrinkles around the mouth caused by posterior bite collapse, or complete facial structure collapse is virtually eliminated.

Your smile is improved when replacement teeth look more like natural teeth. Even when only one tooth is missing, long term esthetics are usually much better with an implant supported replacement tooth than with a traditional tooth supported bridge. This is particularly important in the front of your mouth, where preventing a visible bone defect is critical for natural appearance.

- Restored self-esteem and renewed self-confidence. Many of the people who now enjoy the benefits of implant supported replacement teeth state that their self esteem and self confidence have been restored as a result of improved appearance, function, comfort, and health.



- Improved ability to taste foods. Wearing an upper denture can prevent someone from really tasting food, as the roof of the mouth is covered. With implant supported replacement teeth, it is not necessary to cover the roof of the mouth, so it is possible to enjoy the taste of foods.

Frequently Asked Questions.



Are implants successful?

Implants, as we know them today, have been in existence for at least twenty-five years. For the last ten years, however, success rates at many treatment centers are consistently over 95% with proper personal and professional care. Few forms of medical, orthopedic or dental treatment have such high success rates.

What is the procedure like?

There are actually two phases to implant dentistry:

Phase 1:

With great care, implants are placed into the jawbone. The gum tissues are then closed and the healing phase begins. This may take anywhere from 3-6 months. Sometimes, the implants may be put to use immediately.



Phase 2:

Creating and fixing the new tooth or teeth to the implant structure. Implants can replace a single tooth, several teeth or your dentures.

Does it hurt?

Usually, discomfort is not a problem. You will be given



appropriate medications during and after the procedure. We urge you to ask other patients how they felt after implant therapy.



How long will it take?

Most implant supported dentures cases are completed in three to four days. For other situations, the complete process may take anywhere from 4-8 months, based on where the implants are placed and the type of restoration you desire.

Will I be without teeth?

This may vary depending on the individual case. You may be without your teeth for several days. We will make sure that in the interim period, you look and feel very natural.

Am I too old?

Implant patients can be in their early teens or be mature adults in their seventies and eighties. Good health and adequate bone are the most critical factors in evaluating implant candidates.

What will it feel like when it is done?

Once the entire procedure is complete and the final restorations placed, they will actually feel or function like your natural teeth!

How do I take care of my implants?

Normal routine home care and professional cleaning visits are required. It is important to know that every 3-6 months, you will need to have a routine hygiene treatment and evaluation.

Are they expensive?

Initially, you might feel dental implants are expensive. However, they represent a more permanent and natural solution than dentures and partials. Thus, there is a greater

initial investment. They should last for years, particularly if you have an "ideal" case. Independent surveys of implant patients show that they felt the investment was worth every penny and would do it again!



How much do they cost?

Each case is different. Cost is a function of your particular needs. After a complete examination, your doctor will more specifically determine your dental needs and the best treatment alternative(s) for you. At that point, you can specifically address the question of cost and be helped with financial arrangements.

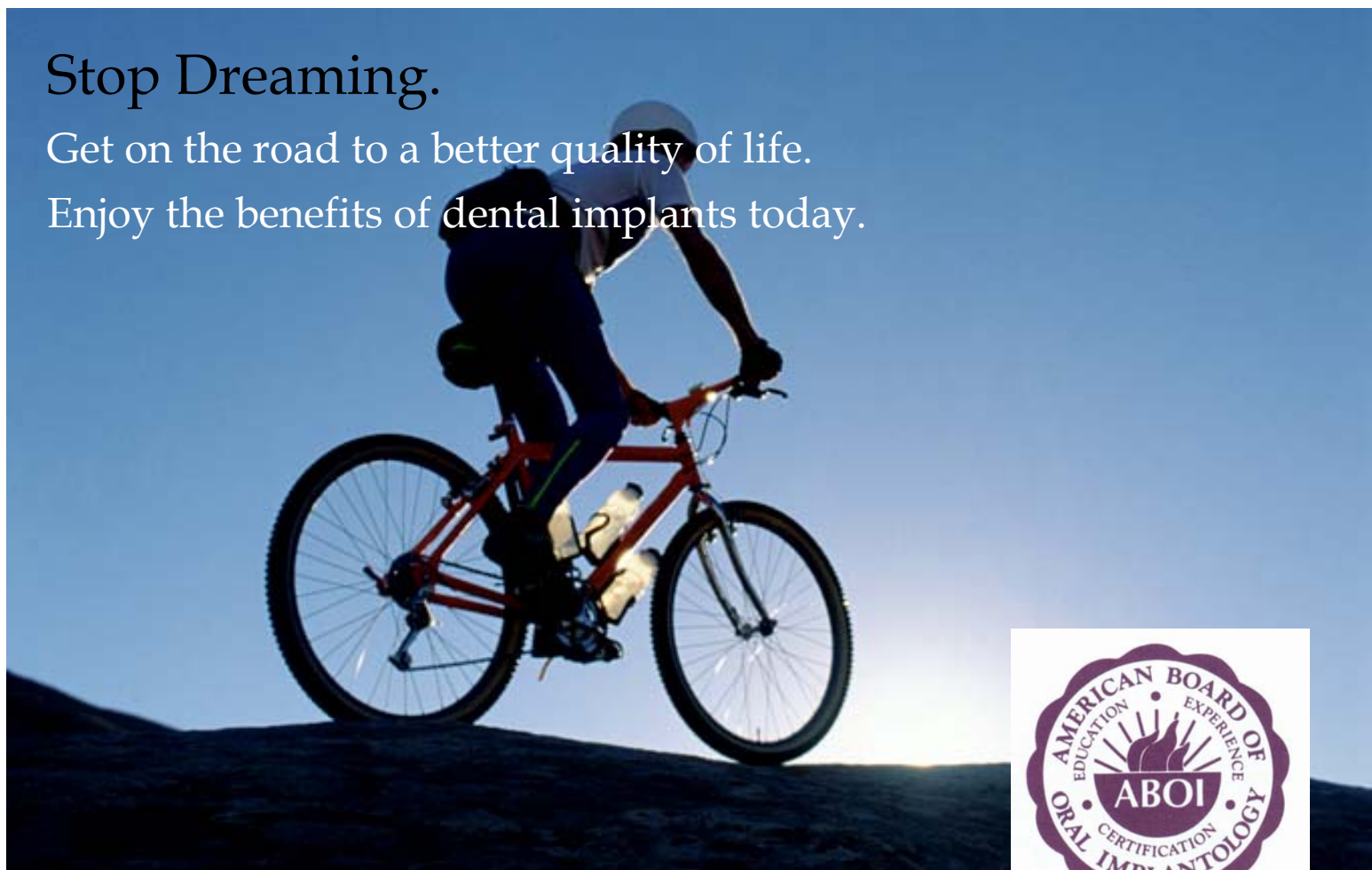
Will My Insurance Pay for Implants?

Very few dental insurance plans cover implant placement; however, fabrication of the replacement teeth may be partially covered.

Stop Dreaming.

Get on the road to a better quality of life.

Enjoy the benefits of dental implants today.



Ask us about "immediate teeth in 24 hours".

About Dr. Liang

Dr. William (Bill) Liang B.Sc., D.M.D.,

Diplomate, American Board of Oral Implantology / Implant dentistry

Dr. Liang attended the University of British Columbia and received his Bachelors degree in Microbiology in 1981 and his Doctor of Dental Medicine degree in 1983. At graduation, he was awarded the Canadian Oral and Maxillo-Facial Prize for highest standing in the area of Oral Surgery.

Dr. Liang is a Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry, Fellow and Diplomate of the International Congress of Oral Implantology and Fellow of the Misch Implant Institute.

He is the founding director of the Canadian Dental Implant Training Centre and has lectured locally and internationally on implant dentistry.

His past service to the profession and community includes the following:

- *Interviewer for the admissions committee of U.B.C.Faculty of Dentistry.
- *Executive of the British Columbia Chapter of the Academy of General Dentistry.
- *Member of the College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia, Practice Guidelines committee.
- *Chairman of the United Way Campaign, Fraser Valley dental division
- *President of the Fraser Valley Cast Gold Study Club
- *President of the Academy of R.V. Tucker Study Clubs

Dr. Liang was the Past-Chair of the Committee on Implant Protocol and currently, he is serving on the Quality Assurance Committee of the College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia.

