DENTURES & DENTAL IMPLANTS
THAT WILL HELP YOU LOOK YOUNGER & CHEW BETTER!

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ARE YOU TIRED OF...

• Dentures that never fit right
• Dentures that fit briefly, but haven’t for a long time
• Dentures that come loose when you laugh, cough, or sneeze
• Denture adhesive that never seems to help, only creates a goopy, disgusting layer in your mouth
• Sores on your gums from dentures that rock or rub on your gums
• Looking older than you feel because of your dentures
• Knowing that everyone can tell you have dentures
• Having to order only soft foods from the menu at a restaurant
• Removing your dentures to clean them constantly
• Feeling that your core strength and balance are diminishing daily

Wouldn’t you love to regain the appearance, strength, and confidence you had before? Don’t you long for a Porterhouse steak, corn on the cob, even just an apple a day? Don’t you feel the need for dentures that look, function, and feel like natural teeth?

WELL, YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL WITH DENTAL IMPLANTS!
WHAT ARE DENTAL IMPLANTS . . .
AND HOW DO THEY WORK?

**DENTAL IMPLANTS ARE SIMPLE IN CONCEPT:**

They're artificial teeth that are designed to completely replace your natural teeth. This means that they are made up of an artificial tooth root that bonds to your jawbone and an attractive and natural looking dental crown. When dental implants are used to replace multiple teeth, multiple implants are used to support a partial or full dental bridge.

The implant root and the dental crown are sometimes connected using a small piece known as an abutment.

Because the dental implant is fully secured in the jawbone, these restorations will function just like natural teeth. You will be able to bite and chew normally. Your gums will grow right up around the implants, helping them to look completely natural: there's no need for plates, hooks, and clasps that secure partial dentures and can be uncomfortable, intrusive, and unstable.
BENEFITS OF DENTAL IMPLANTS

• With dental implants, you can expect an overall improvement in your quality of life over dentures or failing natural teeth. You will look younger and more attractive and you’ll be more confident whether you’re speaking in public, hanging out with friends, or just spending time at home with the one special person in your life.

• You might live longer, too. Biting force can impact your lifespan, and dental implants give you a stronger bite. This can help you chew a wider variety of foods, including unprocessed meat, fresh fruits, and fresh vegetables so you can get a full range of delicious and nutritious foods. You’ll also see your digestion improve as you do a better job of chewing your food before swallowing.

• And you won’t just be eating more foods, you’ll be enjoying them more. You can chew foods more fully to release their flavor, and without an upper denture covering your palate, you’ll rediscover the vibrant flavors you’d forgotten.

• Your mouth won’t just look natural, it can feel natural. Many people never get over the “foreign body sensation” of dentures, but dental implants allow you to have a smaller bridge that feels more like your natural teeth.

• You won’t have to worry about your dentures coming out ever again. You can also say goodbye to denture adhesive forever! You won’t ever have to worry that your dentures will come out when you talk, laugh, or sneeze. Your dentures won’t gag you anymore.

• When you have a single dental implant, it supports itself and we don’t have to compromise the health of your neighboring teeth.

• Dental implants are also cared for just like your natural teeth. Just brush, floss, and see your dentist regularly.

• With proper care and maintenance, dental implants can last a lifetime. Clinical studies of up to 30 years in length show great success, and some individuals have had dental implants for 50 years.
CAN I GET DENTAL IMPLANTS?

Another benefit of dental implants is that almost anyone can get them! There are only three firm restrictions for who is a candidate for dental implants. To get dental implants, you must:

- Be missing one or more teeth
- Be an adult whose jaw has finished growing
- Be healthy enough for surgery

If you meet those three requirements, you can get dental implants. There are, however, some conditions that may affect the procedure or may affect your odds of success.
THE DENTAL IMPLANT PROCEDURE

The dental implant process can come in many different forms, and sometimes we can plan exactly how things will go, but other times we will have to assess your condition at each stage and respond appropriately to ensure the greatest odds of success.

For some people, we may perform procedures before we place your dental implants. We will treat gum disease, perform extractions, and start a bone graft.

But for most people, your first procedure will be when we place your dental implants. In many cases, we can perform extractions, treat gum disease, and add bone graft in the same procedure where we place your dental implants. When we place your dental implants, we will evaluate them. If they are secure, we may place a temporary crown on the implant. This crown will give you an attractive restoration on the very first day your implants are placed. If your implant is not stable enough to support a dental crown right away, we may place a healing cap or abutment on the implant. This allows the bone to heal and the gums to grow around the implant. Sometimes it is necessary to have the implant concealed completely under the gums.

Even if you can't have a crown on top of your implant right away, we still have cosmetic options so you will never have a gap in your smile.

Next, your dental implant will be allowed to heal for three to six months. If you had a temporary crown placed on your implant, we will replace it with a permanent crown that is fully functional as well as attractive. If you had a healing abutment, we will place a temporary crown. If your implant was completely under your gums, we will place a healing abutment or temporary crown.

Once your gum tissue heals around your permanent crown, your dental implants are finished.
TYPES OF DENTAL IMPLANTS

There are many options for your dental implants so we can choose the right one for you. Here are some of the options to consider:

**Single Tooth Implant:** Single tooth implants are used to replace one lost tooth. There is one artificial root and one dental crown.

**Partial Bridge Implant:** This type of restoration is used to replace two or more missing teeth, but not an entire arch of teeth. You will have the number of dental crowns in the bridge equal to the total number of teeth lost. The number of implants is selected to maximize success with a minimum of surgical time and cost.

**Retained Dentures or Supported Dentures:** Dentures can be designed to be supported by dental implants or just retained (held in place) by them. Implant-supported dentures give all the benefits we've been talking about here: you get almost the full force of your bite back. You are able to chew just as well as ever, and all the benefits of dental implants. Implant-retained are just held in place by your dental implants. You get the benefit of your dentures staying in place, but you see little of the benefit of improved bite force.

**Removable, Fixed, or Hybrid Dentures:** Removable dentures are like traditional dentures in that they can be removed for cleaning, repair, or adjustment. Many removable dentures are retained dentures, but we can also design implant-supported dentures that are removable. Under some conditions, these dentures may dislodge while chewing.

Fixed dentures are bonded to the dental implants. They are not designed to be removable at all. If we do have to remove them for service, repair, or adjustment, it can damage the denture. This type of implant denture isn't used very much anymore.

Hybrid dentures are like fixed dentures in that they are firmly attached to your dental implants. You can't remove them at home. But they are designed to be removed by your dentist. This makes it possible to remove the denture for cleaning, adjustment, and repair by your dentist without compromising bite strength.
Types of Dental Implants (Cont.)

All-on-4 / All-on-6: These are full arch replacement dentures engineered to take maximum advantage of the bone you have in place. It is intended that you will have your implants placed in one relatively quick surgery and get your temporary denture right away. There’s typically no need for a bone graft procedure. The procedure is streamlined and the dentures are both durable and beautiful. With fewer dental implants the All-on-4 or All-on-6 procedure represents a cost-effective alternative for getting a full set of replacement teeth.
LOOK 10 YEARS YOUNGER - AND SLOW YOUR AGING!

The skin, muscles, fat, and other tissues in the face develop around a full set of teeth and a healthy amount of bone to support them. One thing that happens as we get older is that we often lose height in our teeth as they get worn down, and we lose bone mass that supports the teeth. This causes our facial height to shrink.

The result is what is described as the concertina or accordion effect: as the face compresses, deep folds develop. You may also see hanging cheeks and jowls, contributing to the poor definition of your chin. You may see excess skin in the neck.

This effect can be worsened by dentures. Without teeth, your jawbone will shrink even more rapidly. Dentures that pinch or press on your gums can even accelerate bone loss. And the dentures themselves don’t replace the lost height. This can lead to inward folding around the mouth.

But with dental implants, we can restore the full height of your lost teeth and jawbone. The result is a dramatic rejuvenation of your facial appearance, ten years or more. And because dental implants stimulate and retain your jawbone, you will be able to retain this appearance for longer.
THREE MOST COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT DENTAL IMPLANTS

**Is Dental Implant Surgery Painful?**
Most of the time, our patients report little to no pain after the surgery. Many patients deal with the discomfort of surgery using nothing more than over-the-counter pain relievers. Of course, pain is variable, and for some people the fear of pain is more significant than the pain itself. If you find that fear of pain is keeping you from getting dental implants, remember that dentures are often more painful over the long run because they can irritate your gums, lead to a bad bite, and many other irritations.

If you are still fearful, sedation dentistry can help many people overcome the fear to get the procedure that they truly desire.

**How Much Do Dental Implants Cost?**
People often want to know about the cost of dental implants, but the procedure is too customized to offer even an estimated approximate cost. We will only be able to give you an estimate after a thorough examination of your oral health, taking appropriate measurements of your soft tissue and bone tissue.

Dental implants are a great investment in your oral health. Not only do they give you fully functional replacement teeth, they also give you a beautiful smile. And dental implants are very long-lasting: giving 30 years or more of good results.

**How Do I Get Started?**
This is the easiest question to answer. Just contact us today to set up an initial consultation. You can call (408) 354-5600, or contact us through our website: www.TopDownDental.com. We will schedule a brief visit so we can get some basic information. We’ll take x-rays, do a basic exam of your oral health, and listen to your goals for your smile makeover.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share this information. We look forward to hearing from you. Our schedule is pretty busy, but we have reserved limited times for a number of appointments for new patients who are interested in dental implants. We look forward to your call and we look forward to meeting you.