Implants: Filling the Gap

The average adult has 32 permanent teeth and all play an important role in daily activities like eating, talking and smiling. Without one of those pearly whites, biting into a nutritious apple or speaking clearly may be a bit of a challenge.

A missing tooth can commonly be caused by periodontal (gum) disease, tooth decay or a mouth injury. It can even be the result of a congenital absence where permanent teeth never grow in to replace baby teeth. But, you don't have to live without a tooth for the rest of your life. Dental implants offer a tooth replacement option that's functional, natural looking and comfortable.

A dental implant is a "root" device, usually made of titanium that is surgically inserted into the jaw. During a two- to six-month period, the implant fuses to the jawbone and serves as a permanent anchor, keeping an artificial tooth in place. Individuals must have good overall health and healthy gums to undergo a dental implant surgery.[1]

Dental implants are one solution for permanent tooth loss. But, following good oral health habits is the most important thing you can do for your oral and overall health.

Did you know?

Approximately 69 percent of Americans between 35 and 44 years of age have at least one missing tooth.[2]

Quick bites

What are the advantages of dental implants?

- Provide long-term comfort and stability
- Restore proper chewing functions
- Improve speech clarity
- Look and feel like natural teeth
- Don't affect bordering teeth
- Last for years and are permanent
- Have a 98 percent success rate over 10 years[3]

DELTA DENTAL®

Visit us online for more information on oral and overall health!

1. American Academy of Periodontology, "Dental Implants," web. **2.** American Academy of Implant Dentistry, "Dental Implant Facts," web. **3.** WebMD, "Dental Implants," web.

Healthy Smile, Happy Life

Delta Dental of Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, and Tennessee

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