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WHY CHOOSE DENTAL IMPLANTS?

One thing everyone can agree upon is that a beautiful smile looks radiant and inspires confidence at every stage of life. And today, there's little reason not to enjoy the many benefits of a healthy and attractive smile. Thanks to all the advances in care offered by modern dentistry, even if you have lost teeth, you can reestablish a complete smile that feels natural and looks great!

By now everyone has heard of dental implants and the excellent treatment outcomes that are possible when they are used to provide care. First introduced by a Swedish surgeon named, Per-Ingemar Branemark in the 1950's, dental implants have become the most popular and widely recognized method for the replacement of missing teeth today. Ingeniously conceived and designed to

behave in much the same way as the roots of your natural teeth, dental implants are biocompatible posts that are surgically placed directly into the jawbone beneath the gums. Once positioned, dental implants begin to integrate with the surrounding bone, gradually becoming strong and stable enough to support a range of permanent restorations, including crowns, bridges, and overdentures. Whether a single tooth is lost, several teeth are missing, or no upper or lower teeth remain, dental implants provide an effective way to rebuild a complete and functional smile.

By current estimates, roughly 3 million people have already received dental implants, with this number increasing at a staggering rate of 500,000 per year! Their soaring popularity is in large part due to the number

of advantages they offer over other methods of care.

Some of the chief benefits of dental implants include the following:

- Dental implants closely replicate the look, feel, and function of natural teeth.
- Dental implants provide continued stimulation to the underlying bone to preserve natural facial contours.
- Dental implants do not require any preparation or clasping of the teeth adjacent to the edentulous area like conventional dental bridges or partial dentures.
- Dental implants can be cleaned and maintained in the same way as your own teeth
- Dental implants do not decay and will not develop cavities
- Dental implants do not interfere with speech and allow one to eat and taste food with virtually no restrictions

And there's more good news on dental implants. According to



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clinical studies, dental implants demonstrate a long-term success rate of well over 95%. However, it's important to keep in mind that their longevity and stability rely in large part upon the presence of sufficient bone to provide the required support. For this very reason, your dentist may recommend a bone grafting procedure, a sinus lift, or other bone augmentation procedure before the placement of a dental implant.

Treatment planning for the placement of a dental implant is a precise and thorough process. Advanced diagnostic technology and software programs are used to map out the details of care from the initial workup to the placement of the implants and final restorations. Once placed, dental implants require a few months to fully “osseointegrate” or fuse with the bone before the permanent crowns, bridges or overdentures are inserted. In some cases, a temporary crown or bridge can be attached to the implants at the same visit they are placed. While the temporary restorations can provide the look of a

complete smile, total healing and osseointegration is necessary before the placement of the final prostheses.

Although dental implants require an investment of time and resources, the payoff is well worth it. With a complete and beautiful set of teeth that feel just like your very own, you can speak and eat with ease and enjoy sharing your smile with the world.

