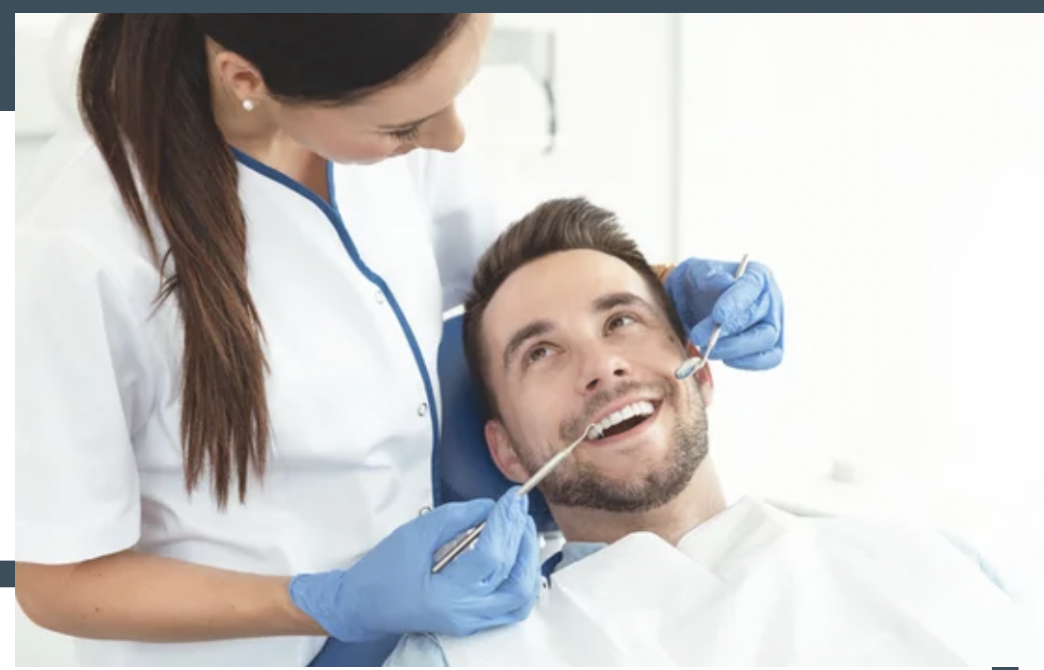


DENTAL IMPLANTS PROCESS



1. First Appointment

The first step to getting a dental implant is a consultation in which you meet with a dentist and discuss your options for your missing, or damaged tooth. Many patients choose implants.

If you do, the following steps will likely look similar to the steps you will take to get your implant.

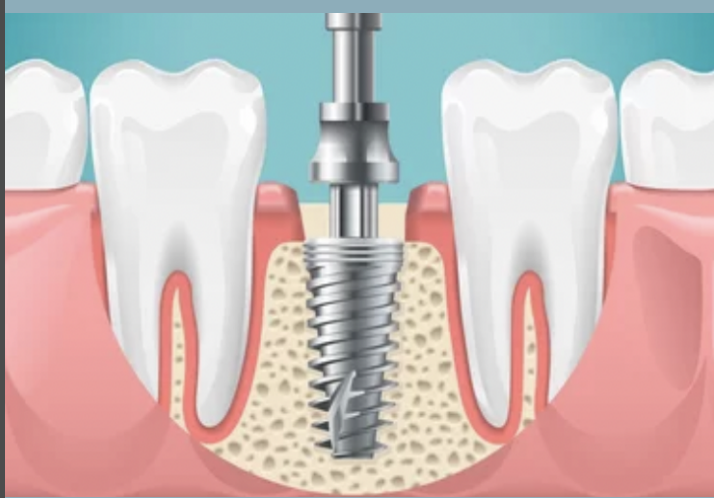
2. Extraction

If you are getting an implant to replace a damaged tooth, the dentist will need to remove that tooth before being able to put in any implants.



3. Bone Grafting

In some cases, patients will need extra bone put in where they are missing a tooth. A bone graft is the best and most common way to do this. After having a bone graft you may need to wait up to 3 months to let your gums and jaw recover before putting in a implant.



4. Surgery

At this point your implant is ready to be put in. This is done by cutting a small incision in your gums. Then, a small hole is drilled into the bone to place the implant post. Your mouth and gums will need to heal for at least 2 weeks before moving onto the next phase.

5. Crown

After letting the root of the implant heal, you are finally ready to have a crown put over top of the area. A crown typically attaches to the root of the implant and surrounding gums. An upside to crowns is they look and function like natural teeth.



6. Healing

After having your implant and crown placed you should schedule regular appointments with your dentist to be sure everything heals regularly and is in the correct place. You may want to refrain from eating hard or chewy foods for a while after procedures, but once your jaw and gums have healed you can return to your regular diet.