

# Eggert Family Dentistry

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## Dental Implants Fact Sheet

### What are dental implants?

Implants are like artificial tooth roots, usually made of titanium, that are surgically placed into the jaw. They become anchored into the jaw bone and can then hold a crown, a bridge, or a denture.

### What are the benefits?

Implants do not rely on neighboring teeth for support of missing teeth like tooth retained bridges and partial dentures do. Therefore, the neighboring teeth stay healthy. Implants are very stable, have a low failure rate, and they look and feel like natural teeth.

### What else do I need to know?

Implants may not be the best option for everyone. Implants require a surgery so patients must be in good health, have healthy gums, and have adequate bone structure for support. The success rate for implants decreases dramatically among those who suffer from chronic problems like clenching or bruxism, or systemic diseases, such as diabetes. Additionally, people who smoke or drink alcohol may not be good candidates.

Implants need time to become stable in the jaw bone, therefore it can take awhile (sometimes 6 months to a year) before the artificial tooth or teeth can be fabricated and attached to the implant.

### How do I care for an implant?

Like any natural tooth, implants need good oral hygiene and regular dental maintenance visits to stay healthy. It is important to brush and floss around the implant at least twice each day and to use any hygiene aids given to you by us, your dental team.

### What's the next step?

To find out if you are a good candidate for dental implants, don't hesitate to ask us. Call to schedule your consult today: 651-482-8412.