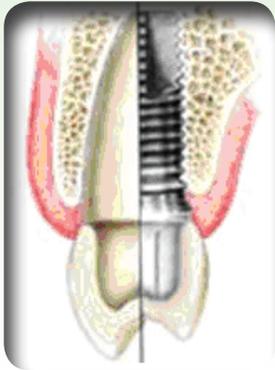


Dental Implants

Dental implants are designed to provide a foundation for replacement teeth that look, feel, and function like natural teeth. A person who lost teeth can regain the ability to eat virtually anything. They can smile with confidence knowing that their teeth appear naturally and their facial contours will be preserved.



Implant is a small titanium root that is placed into the jawbone where tooth is missing. The bone bonds together with the titanium, creating a strong foundation for the artificial tooth. The implants can also help preserving the facial structure and

preventing the deterioration of the bone that often occurs when teeth are missing.

For most patients, the placement of dental implant involves two surgical procedures. First, the implant is placed within your jawbone (stage 1). The healing time following the surgery varies from person to person based on multiple factors.

After the implant has bonded to the bone (4 -6 months), the second phase begins. Dr. Wang will uncover the implant and attach a healing abutment (stage 2). After two weeks, your general dentist will be able to start making your new tooth.

The entire procedure usually takes about six to eight months. In some situation, stages 1 and 2 can be done simultaneously to shorten the healing period and avoiding additional procedure.

Initial Implant Placement Examination

Implant looks like a titanium screw which consist two physical dimensions: 1) diameter and 2) length. Since implant is inserted into the jaw bone, it is necessary for the jaw bone to be wider and taller than the implant. *Bone graft procedure will be required when the implant site is lacking proper bone dimension.* Please visit Dr. Wang's website, www.pasadenaperio.com, for different types of bone graft procedure.

It is essential for patient to have an initial full examination with Dr. Wang. He will check the condition of the implant site(s). More importantly, Dr. Wang will fully evaluate the remaining teeth to ensure they are in good condition. Then, Dr. Wang will present a comprehensive treatment plan.

Immediate Implant Placement after Tooth Extraction

In many cases, a single implant can be placed at the time of tooth extraction. Since the diameter of the implant is slightly smaller than the extracted tooth hole, bone graft is necessary to fill the small gaps between implant and extracted socket wall. The advantages of immediate implant placement are 1) shortening the waiting time by 4 to 5 months, 2) minimize surgical procedure, and 3) faster healing process.

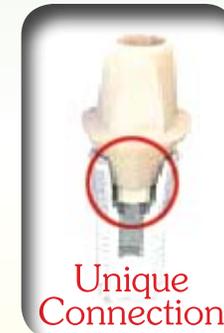


Importance of Implant Manufactures

There are many implant companies selling dental implants in the US. Most of the implant manufactures do not have active researches and scientific publications on their products. Most importantly, *majority of lesser known implant companies do not survive for a long period of time.*



As shown in the adjacent diagram, an implant "abutment" is required to connect the crown to the implant.



Each manufacture designs its unique connection between the "abutment" and the implant body. *Therefore, all implant parts are company specific.* It will be very difficult to find the implant manufacture "A" parts if manufacture "A" is no longer on the market.

Dr. Wang only uses implant from the Top-tier implant manufactures that have 1) long history and 2) active ongoing researches. Dr. Wang will disclose the implant manufactures during initial examination.

Different Types of Abutments



The abutments are fabricated with 3 different types of material: 1) Titanium, 2) Zirconian, and 3) Gold alloy.

Zirconian abutment is the choice for anterior tooth restoration because it contains *no metal and is white in color*.

Three different types of abutment are available for various clinical situations:

1. Pre-fabricated abutment (least expensive)

- It is designed mostly for a single posterior tooth with adequate gum tissue.

2. Lab fabricates patient specific abutment (more expensive)

- Implant bridge
- Anterior (front) teeth
- Thin gum (to avoid blackness along the gum line)

3. Computer assists CAD/CAM patient specific abutment (most expensive)

- Computer design and mill directly from a piece of Titanium or Zirconian.
- It is stronger with more precision
- “Zirconian” abutment can only fabricate with this method

Only your dentist can determine the proper type of abutment. Therefore, the costs of your implant crown/bridge will vary significantly according to your specific situation.

Different Types of Implant Prosthesis

1. Missing one or two teeth

- Each missing tooth will have to be replaced with a single implant.

2. Missing three adjacent teeth

- Ideal treatment is replacing each



tooth with an implant. Therefore, 3 implants will be placed.

- However, 2 implants can be placed which will support a 3 unit bridge

3. Missing several teeth

- Combination of Implant bridge and implant crown



4. Missing all teeth

- Ideal treatment -- replacing each tooth with an implant. Since dental implants therapy is not inexpensive, considerable financial commitment will be required to pursuit the ideal treatment.



- Hybrid design – Placing 5 or 6 dental implants and support one piece bridge for entire arch.



- Overdenture – 2 or 4 implants support removal denture via “locator” attachment.



Please contact Dr. Wang's office for further information.

Dental Implants



572 E. Green St., Suite 205,
Pasadena, CA 91101
Tel: (626) 796-2800

www.pasadenaperio.com