



IVAN VALCARENGHI, D.D.S

## CHICAGO IMPLANTS

Chicago Implants - Dr Ivan Valcarengi - Dental Implants



In our office, getting one or more dental implants involves two phases: the surgical and restorative phases. Most often, the surgical phase is performed by an Oral Surgeon or Periodontist with advanced training in implants. The restorative phase is performed by a dentist that understands implant restorations (more on this). The surgical phase involves securing a non-visible, titanium implant “root” into the jawbone which supports the useful part the restorative dentist places on top of the titanium post which allows chewing.

The surgical phase is complete when the jawbone grows into the implant, called osseointegration. This is the “healing period” which can take 3-6 months. In some cases if patients have healthy enough jawbone of sufficient density, immediate-type implants can be performed in one visit (see Immediate Tooth Replacement). Our office has successfully placed thousands of implants for nearly twenty-five years.

It is customary to go to two separate offices for the two phases. Our advantage is that both phases, both doctors, specialist and restorative dentist are in one office, coordinating and communicating at a high level for optimal results and success. This is especially important in more complex cases or in sensitive cosmetic cases.

### What is a dental implant?

A dental implant is a small titanium screw that serves as the replacement for the root portion of a missing natural tooth. What one sees in the mouth as a tooth is only about one-third the complete tooth. The other two-thirds is a support structure, the roots, underneath the gums. When replacing teeth with dental implants we are attempting to accomplish what is found in nature by replacing the roots with a titanium dental implant and the chewing portion with an implant-retained crown. These can be placed in either the upper or lower jaws. Due to the biocompatible properties of titanium, a dental implant fuses with the bone and becomes a good anchor for the replacement tooth. This is the same material used in hip and joint replacement as well as the screws that secure broken bones. Dental implants can be used in solutions for replacing single or multiple missing teeth.

## **Why dental implants?**

There are a number of reasons why you should consider a dental implant:

For Denture Wearers: without the root structure of natural teeth present, the jawbone shrinks...what we call “absorption.” This shrinkage is responsible for ill-fitting dentures, as well as dentures that do not stay in the mouth well during speaking and eating, and make replacement very difficult.

Cosmetically, this shrinkage can also make the face sink in and lose lip, and facial support. Ever see anyone without their dentures in? Some people can look this way even with teeth, what we sometimes call the “Robin Williams effect” named for the actor whom appears to have no teeth or adequate facial support, but actually does have teeth. Not having the correct facial support is a significant factor in aging.

Dental implants are a great way to support a denture, offer greater confidence without the fear of a loose, ill-fitting denture, and we can achieve greater cosmetic results with an implant-retained denture.

For Immediate Extraction Cases: this is also an implant-retained denture for the patient having so many dental problems that would take many years, and many dollars to stabilize, may choose instead, to have all naturally remaining teeth removed. We will arrange to extract these “hopeless” teeth, and place immediate-retained implant dentures. This is one of the cases you would want a very highly trained surgeon and restorative dentist collaborating together to ensure success.

For Missing Teeth: For whatever reason a patient might lose one or even many teeth that can be replaced with dental implants.

Congenital or Trauma: in fewer cases, there are patients with congenital abnormalities, such as cleft lip/palate, or in the case of car accidents or other such traumatic injuries resulting in the loss of teeth.

There are no loose parts to worry about losing. The dental implant is safe, stable and comfortable. Few complications exist and few adjustments are needed after placement. There are few things in life that are permanent. Dental implants come close. Dentistry, in general, represents a great value because dental treatment often lasts many years. Once osseointegration takes place, dental implants may be as permanent a treatment there is! It can normally serve the patient for life!

## **How long do dental implants last?**

As stated previously, while nothing is permanent, dental implants might be as close to permanence as anything. When compared to any

healthcare treatment, there is no equal. With more than thirty years of clinical experience and millions of implants placed and patients treated, statistics confirm a success rate of over 95 percent. That's a pretty good batting average! Unlike hip or joint replacement, which normally occurs within 10 years, there is no good statistic for dental implant replacement since this does not often occur. The mouth continues to be one of the more unique and remarkable places in the body.

### **Who places the dental implants?**

Many capable and trained dentists place implants, but the surgical phase of treatment is most often done by oral surgeons or periodontists (specialists in oral soft tissues), and the restorative portion is most often done by dentists trained in implant restoration.

Patients might believe any dentist can do any "dental" treatment. This would be grossly inaccurate. As with anything in healthcare, there are differences in the familiarity, training, skill and talent between doctors. Internists With advances in medicine and dentistry, subspecialties and narrower focus improves the quality of care in a particular area. Not every heart surgeon, for example, does all heart surgeries. Some might be more trained and skilled in micro-surgeries while another is skilled in multiple arterial bypass procedures. And the bypass surgeon might be excellent in his procedure, but have another surgeon do another phase of treatment. It's no different in dentistry. There are dentists whom have general knowledge of dental restorations, but may not have acquired training in restoring dental implants. It is very common, for example, for the surgeon to make all the implants decisions for the general dentist. While this may be adequate in many single tooth replacements, it is not desirable. The general or restoring dentist should be the dentist leading the treatment, designing the case, choosing the materials, and conferring with the surgeon for optimal results. This requires more than a cursory knowledge of dental implants and restoration.

With the lack of subspecialization certification in dentistry, it is sometimes difficult to know who has advanced training in dental implants. This is a recurring theme on this website...to find a dentist that has the training, skill and talent to perform special treatment at a high level. With dentistry's archaic specialties, this is the challenge of every patient, and the cost of not doing one's "homework" is high. We receive only one set of adult teeth in our lifetime, and making sure treatment is done as well as possible, is crucial. It amazes me sometimes, just how poor dentistry is performed, even in well-to-do communities. The good news, is that even this poor performance still results in dentistry that is long lasting. Dentistry is an outstanding value. Good dentistry is priceless!

### **How much do dental implants cost?**

The fee for tooth replacement with dental implants depends on several factors, including the number of teeth being replaced and the number of dental implants required to support your replacement teeth and the laboratory costs associated with the case. Some additional procedures

may be required prior to the placement of your dental implants to ensure the long-term health of your dental implants. Bone grafting, sinus lift, and other “site preservation” treatments may be required in addition to dental implants. A cosmetic case, whether elective or not, may entail more difficult standards to obtain the desired results and can cost more.

Note About Fees: being on the internet, we often get phone calls from patients “shopping” for the best fees for various treatments. So a discussion of fees is warranted.

First, doctors, and most professionals, have service-based fees that really depend on three simple, but sometimes forgotten principles: the time, skill, and knowledge of the doctor. This is all a doctor really has to offer, his/her time, their skill and knowledge in the procedures. Other factors, such as competitiveness, service, and the cost to provide these services will also affect fees.

A doctor having to market his competitiveness, training, skills, and other advantages on the internet, with websites, etc., may have higher fees, especially in nicer communities, where there are greater numbers of doctors, perhaps doing similar treatment. Patients must understand that dentists do not “sell” porcelain veneers or dental implants as if products, but rather, provide these services for a fee that reflects their training, experience, and time.

In our office, all our doctors have extensive, advanced training in their “area” of expertise, more than the typical dentist, and so our fees will be similar to dentists with similar training and expertise. And our particular advantage is that we have all these specialists in one location, all communicating at a high level on perhaps every case, to ensure optimal results. This quality of care is unusual. We are proud our fees, however, are still very reasonable for this superior level of care. We can do this because we control our costs and share space in this one location.

Choosing A Doctor: in order to improve our service and treatment, we conduct many surveys and have found that many patients choose healthcare providers based finding one they can like with the lowest fee. Remember that fees are based on the doctor’s time, skill and knowledge, and if the fees are low, perhaps this is an indication the doctor does not have confidence in his own abilities, or doesn’t highly value his/her skills, as well as a myriad of other factors that go into setting fees. So Choosing the doctor is the most important factor when seeking treatment that can permanently affect your health for the rest of your life.

We have found that most doctors with similar abilities, charge similar fees. Today, when you consider the time, skill, knowledge, and overhead costs obtaining common treatments, such as a crown for a damaged tooth, a cosmetic veneer, a dental implant, you really should not find a dentist charging below a minimum of \$1000 for any of these treatments. Yet, we find fees these low fees everywhere, even in well-to-do communities. Many of us, providing quality healthcare, cannot understand how these colleagues can charge so little, except by compromising in many ways. I suggest my colleagues raise their quality

and care, and patients demand better for themselves, so we can maintain the best quality healthcare the world over.

In addition, we have seen doctors provide fees even without an examination or proper evaluation. These factors contribute to the devaluation of our profession. To obtain a specific fee estimate, it is necessary to have a doctor examine your mouth, period. After a thorough diagnostic examination, your dentist will recommend the treatment that is best for you. You should choose your doctor based on level of skill and training (hard to determine, but with homework, can be done), your confidence in this doctor, and your comfort with him/her. You will then pay his/her fee. The fee should be the last thing you consider when it comes to your teeth, your health. You may not get a second chance to have optimal care!

### **Who is a Candidate?**

Anyone who is missing one or more teeth due to injury, disease or tooth decay may be a candidate for dental implants. The determining factor is the amount of available bone. Your dentist is the best person to evaluate whether dental implants are a viable solution for you. We have a two-step evaluation system in our office. Following initial evaluation, we may obtain the consultation with the specialist or surgeon, whom then confer on your condition, and devise a treatment plan based on this very important communication. This is not done in most offices! But we think it is crucial for optimal health and care. In addition, we can often provide this high level of care without many costly office visits, to more than one location and specialist, incurring multiple consultation fees. We provide this level of care for one reasonable fee.

### **Is old age a problem?**

Occasionally, older patients express concern that their age may prevent them from enjoying the benefits of dental implants. However, health is more of a determining factor than age. If you're healthy enough to have a tooth extracted, you're probably healthy enough to receive dental implants. Certain chronic diseases, such as uncontrolled diabetes, severe periodontal disease, alcoholism and smoking may complicate treatment, or even reduce the success of treatment, but can still be performed in most cases. Your dentist will determine if you are a candidate for dental implants after a careful evaluation of your dental and health history.

### **What are the advantages of dental implants over dentures or a dental bridge?**

**Improved appearance:** When you lose the entire tooth - crown and root - shrinkage of the jawbone may cause your face to look older. Dental implants can stop this process. A traditional denture or dental bridge doesn't.

**Preserve natural teeth:** With traditional dental bridges, teeth adjacent to missing teeth are normally "prepared" to be used as anchors for a dental bridge. Dental implants often eliminate the need to modify the

remaining healthy adjacent teeth.

**Permanent solution:** There are no loose parts to worry about losing. The dental implant is stable and comfortable. No adjustment is needed after placement. Normally, it will serve its owner for many happy, low maintenance years.

### **How will dental implants affect my life?**

Dental implant-supported replacement teeth look, feel and function like natural teeth. This means that you can eat and drink whatever you choose. But most importantly, dental implants often improve quality of life in a very concrete way. People who have felt embarrassed and worried because of their tooth problems are often overwhelmed by what new permanent teeth can do for their self-esteem. Some things in life are priceless. Confidence is one. Implant supported dentures and crowns provide the confidence to know you are healthy, the teeth are strong, and last a long time. What's this confidence worth?

### **Will my new teeth look natural?**

When dental implants are used in combination with modern restorative dentistry, their appearance, comfort and function are very likely to exceed your expectations. Often they are hard to tell apart from your natural teeth. When implant-supported teeth are done in the anterior, or smile zone, great skill and talent is needed in both surgical and restorative phases, for optimal results. In most cases, with the right care, we can obtain a strong, healthy and beautiful smile for almost any patient!

### **Will I be able to chew with the same force and pressure I use with my natural teeth?**

Yes. Following a brief adaptation period, chewing capacity is comparable to that of natural teeth. You will be amazed at how natural, strong, and carefree you will feel following implant restoration.

### **How much time is required for a dental implant placement?**

Today, state-of-the-art guided surgical techniques are convenient alternatives to place dental implants and allow you to have the dental implant placed in a single session using "immediate-type" surgery and placement. This new method has significantly simplified the procedure, for both patients and dentists. The major advantage of the guided surgical technique is the minimal amount of manipulation of the soft tissue due to keyhole surgery. This significantly reduces the healing time and the discomfort normally associated with traditional dental implant surgical techniques.

The conventional process can take from three to six months. First, the dentist places the dental implant, which is left for three to six months to heal and integrate with the jawbone. During the healing period, you are given a temporary prosthesis until the permanent crown is put in place.

The procedure chosen depends on several factors, such as your dental health, the number of teeth involved and which teeth are replaced. These factors will also determine the total number of visits to the dentist throughout the treatment period.

### **Is the treatment painful?**

With any surgery, there can be some discomfort. Placing one implant normally causes less discomfort than placing several. Anesthesia and patient sedation is offered to reduce postoperative discomfort or anxiety during the dental implant process. Most single tooth implants can be performed in less than 30 minutes. Most patients report that they were much more comfortable following the procedure than they had anticipated. Your doctor can prescribe medications to ease any discomfort that may occur. Ask your dentist to recommend another patient who has already had tooth replacement therapy to assess their personal experience.



### **How will I feel after the treatment?**

It is normal to have some bruising and swelling in the gum and soft tissues. But usually the discomfort, if any, is treated with moderate strength analgesics, but many times no more than Advils. You should expect to be able to work the next day.

### **How will I care for my dental implants?**

Patients sometimes believe their dental visits, which contained some much anxiety in the past, will no longer be needed. Not true! You still must care for your oral health as always, but anxiety should be greatly reduced. Your new teeth must be cared for and checked regularly, just like your natural teeth. Brush and floss as recommended by your dentist or dental hygienist. See your dentist in six months, or more frequently if so advised.

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Single Tooth Replacement

### **SINGLE TOOTH MISSING**

#### **Benefits of an all-ceramic crown on implant:**

When both the tooth and root are damaged, the best permanent

replacement is a dental implant in conjunction with a ceramic crown. This solution both looks and functions just like a natural tooth.

- In some cases, Immediately functioning teeth
- Excellent esthetic result
- Life long, stable solution

**Treatment:**

This procedure normally includes four visits to the dentist. You should expect to be able to work the day after having the implant installed.

COURSE OF TREATMENT

**INSTALLING THE NEW TOOTH – STEP-BY-STEP**

The course of treatment described here is one of several options available. Consult your dentist to find out what the best solution is for you, given your specific condition.



**1: Before the procedure**

The dentist makes a first examination and takes one or more x-rays of the area to prepare for the procedure.



**2: Installing the implant**

The implant is installed. At this time, a temporary tooth is provided that allows you to eat and function like normal almost immediately. The implant will need a few months to integrate with the jawbone before the next step is taken.



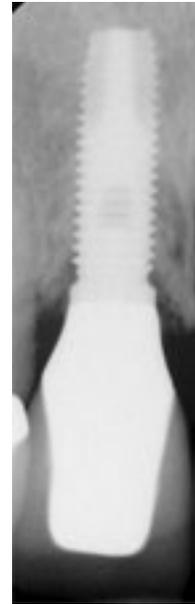
**3: Attaching the new crown**

The final step is the placement of the permanent ceramic tooth. The new tooth is installed for life. No additional treatment is needed.



**4: End result**

You should expect the new tooth to fit and function just like a natural tooth. Do your usual dental hygiene to keep the tooth and gum around it clean.



**Single Implant Replacement for the Central Incisor**



**Before**



**After**

**A fractured front tooth is removed and replaced with a single implant. It is also possible to close the space between the front teeth with this procedure if this is desired.**



**Before**



**After**

## ALTERNATIVES TO AN ALL-CERAMIC CROWN ON IMPLANT



### **Tooth-supported fixed bridge**

A traditional bridge involves grinding down adjacent teeth to support the bridge. It is a stable solution with good esthetics and function that is fairly easy to install. However, this alternative has two main disadvantages: continuous bone resorption in the edentulous area, and sacrificing healthy teeth on behalf of the bridge.



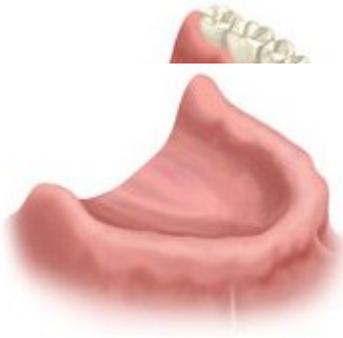
### **Removable partial denture**

This is not a permanent alternative to a lost tooth. It is unstable and loosely attached, which affects both function and comfort. A removable partial denture is made of plastic – a material that can't create the same esthetic result as a ceramic crown. The benefits are few but do exist: adjacent teeth aren't affected. It is easily and quickly installed and relatively cheap.



### **Resin-bonded bridge**

This alternative has some clear advantages: it is quickly installed, functions well and, since it is made of ceramic, it gives a high esthetic result. Moreover, natural healthy teeth aren't affected. But it is not very permanent. The resin-bonded bridge will eventually come off – probably after just a couple of years – and will then have to be reinstalled.



## Multiple Teeth Replacement SEVERAL TEETH MISSING

### **Benefits with fixed bridge on implants:**

In this case, when replacing three teeth in the far back of the mouth, a fixed bridge anchored to dental implants is the only fixed alternative. Traditional dentures can't offer the same stability or function

Having dental implants replacing your lost back teeth will give you new, unparalleled strength and stability that allows you to eat what you want. It will also preserve your jawbone and facial appearance.

- The only fixed alternative in this situation.
- A stable, secure solution that lets you eat what you want
- Preserves your facial appearance and prevents bone loss

### **Treatment:**

After the initial examination, you can expect 4-5 additional visits until the final fixed bridge is permanently attached. It is normal to experience some minor bruising and swelling in the gum and soft tissue afterwards. Any discomfort is usually treated with an ordinary painkiller. You should expect to be able to work the next day.

## Full Arch Replacement ALL TEETH MISSING

### **Benefits of a fixed bridge on implants**

When all teeth are missing or in such condition that they need to be replaced, a fixed bridge anchored to dental implants is the best permanent solution

Before dental implants, there were no fixed solution available for people who lost all their teeth. Today, it is possible to replace a full jaw with dental implants and a fixed bridge that results in a permanent, stable and high esthetic solution.

- Lets you eat and function like having natural teeth
- A solid, stable solution that will serve you for life
- Preserves your facial appearance and prevents bone loss

## Treatment:

The treatment procedure and number of visits is largely dependent on the specific conditions. But all in all, 8-10 visits should be enough to have a fixed bridge installed. Most patients report that they were much more comfortable following the procedure than they had anticipated.

### COURSE OF TREATMENT

## INSTALLING THE FIXED BRIDGE– STEP-BY-STEP

The course of treatment described here is one of several options available. Consult your dentist to find out what the best solution is for you, given your specific condition.



### 1: Before the procedure

The dentist determines what needs to be done and prepares both himself and the patient for the coming treatment procedure.



### 2: Installing the implants

The first step is installing dental implants to replace the lost tooth roots. In this case, five implants are used. Temporary teeth are attached that enable you to eat and function like normal while waiting for the permanent bridge to be installed.



### 3: Attaching the bridge

The final bridge is securely installed on top of the implants. With a full jaw replacement like this, it normally takes 2-3 visits to have the bridge completely attached.



### 4: End result

Your new teeth should be hard to tell from natural – both for you and others. People who have had traditional dentures before getting a fixed bridge often describe this as an overwhelming and very positive experience.

### ALTERNATIVES TO A FIXED BRIDGE



An alternative to a fixed bridge is a removable overdenture, which is anchored on implants. The old fashioned denture has many disadvantages and should be avoided if possible.



### **Removable, implant anchored overdenture**

A removable full denture that is connected to either a ball or bar attachment, which in turn is anchored on two or more implants in the front part of the jaw.

The implants help keep the denture in place and provide better function and comfort. Cost is usually the reason why this solution is chosen over a fixed bridge – although the end result can't be compared.



### **Removable full denture**

A denture that is loosely placed on top of the gum to cover the lost teeth. This alternative has no real advantages – except for its low price and easy installation.

The disadvantages are many: discomfort in eating, poor esthetics, affected speech, and sore gums from denture movement. Moreover, a full denture placed in the upper jaw severely reduces the sense of taste.

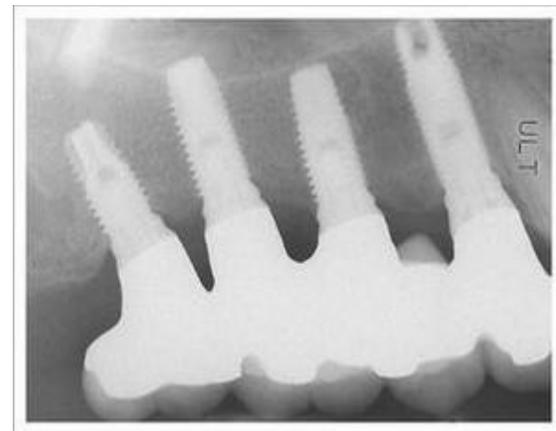
## Sinus Elevation

### **SINUS ELEVATION PROCEDURE**

A key to implant success is the quantity and quality of the bone where the implant is to be placed. The upper back jaw has traditionally been one of the most difficult areas to successfully place dental implants due to insufficient bone quantity and quality and the close proximity to the sinus. Sinus augmentation can help correct this problem by raising the sinus floor and developing bone for the placement of several implants.



**Before**



**After**

Before x-ray: Upper right posterior jaw, missing 4 teeth. The sinus has dropped and there is no bone available for the placement of implants. The sinus membrane must be elevated and a bone graft performed prior to placing of implants.

## Ridge Augmentation

Localized alveolar ridge augmentation, also referred to as *socket grafting* or *grafting of a buccal wall defect*, is a common dental surgery that may be performed following the extraction of a tooth to help recreate the natural contour of the gums and jaw that may have been lost due to bone loss following – or as part of - a tooth extraction.

The alveolar ridge of the jaw is the bone that surrounds the roots of the teeth. When a tooth is removed, it leaves behind an empty socket in the alveolar ridge bone. Typically, this empty socket will heal of its own, filling in with bone and tissue. Sometimes the walls of the socket are thin and break during tooth removal, or were missing before the procedure. When the bony wall holding the tooth into the jaw on the side facing the cheek is missing, it's called a "buccal wall defect." These types of sockets typically do not heal to their previous height and width because they do not have intact, bony walls to guide bone regeneration. Bone typically will continue to be lost at this site, because there is no tooth to retain the bone.

Rebuilding the original height and width of the alveolar ridge is not critical to the patient's overall health, unless the patient wants to replace the original tooth with a dental implant or the lost tissue has caused an aesthetic problem. Dental implants require a certain amount of bone to support the base of the implant. Patients who are considering a dental implant may want to consider a bone grafting procedure into the socket to maintain the alveolar ridge height and width and enable future implant placement. Placing this type of graft material into the tooth socket has been shown to promote bone growth, prevent bone resorption after tooth extraction and preserve the height and width of the alveolar ridge. A ridge augmentation procedure is performed by placing graft material into the tooth socket. This may be done immediately after the tooth has been removed, eliminating the need for a second procedure later. The gum tissue is then advanced over the socket and sutured. Depending on the severity of the buccal wall defect, your doctor may choose to use a space-maintaining product such as mesh or a membrane over the top of the graft to help restore the height and width of the space created by the tooth and bone loss, and into which new bone should grow.

Once the socket area has healed, the alveolar ridge can be prepared for a dental implant or other dental restoration.



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