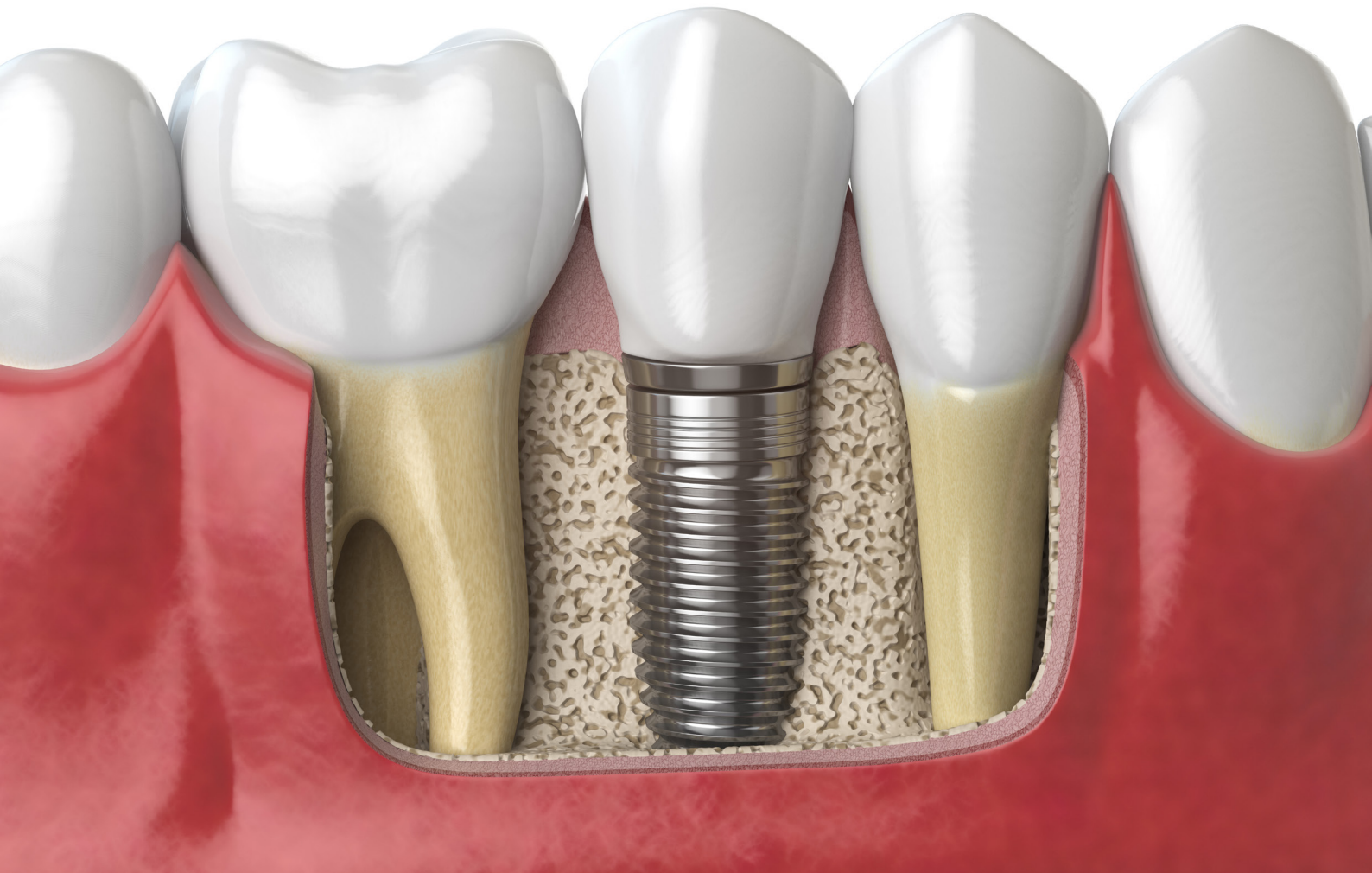




LINCOLN CROSSINGS  
DENTAL CARE



**What every patient  
needs to know  
about dental implants**



## WHAT EVERY PATIENT NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT DENTAL IMPLANTS

Dental Implants have become very popular in the last few years as a way to replace missing or broken-down teeth, secure a loose fitting denture, or replace an entire smile. Dental Implants function and appear just like natural teeth. Below is a list of our practice's most asked questions about dental Implants.



### **What is the purpose of a dental implant?**

When teeth are missing or removed, dental implants are the closest replacement option there is to healthy, natural looking teeth. They allow you to live the life you want, confidently and comfortably performing daily activities like eating, smiling, laughing, talking, and kissing without worrying about your teeth.

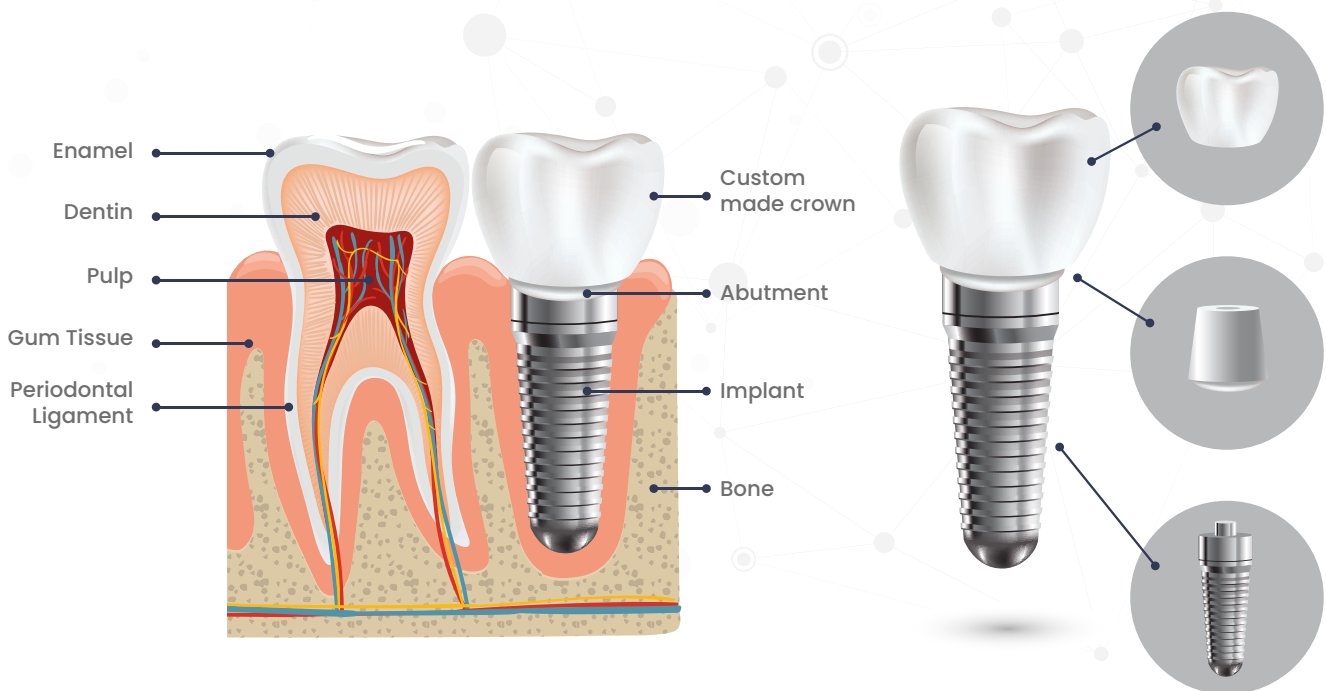




## What is a dental implant?

A dental implant can be thought of as a replacement tooth that looks like and functions like a real tooth. There are three parts that make up a dental implant replacement tooth: an implant screw, an abutment, and a crown. The diagram below outlines these three parts.

The first part is the implant, which refers to a medical grade, bio-compatible titanium screw that gets placed into the patient's upper or lower jaw bone. The implant screw essentially acts like a 'root' or anchor for the replacement tooth. Then, an abutment, which can be thought of as a support or connector piece, gets attached to the implant screw. Lastly, a crown gets attached to the abutment. The crown is the visible and functional portion of the replacement tooth. It is a custom-made porcelain tooth replacement that is made to look natural and match a patient's other teeth.



## Who needs dental implants?

Dental implants can be used to replace a single tooth, multiple teeth, or even an entire mouth of teeth. Dental implants may be a solution for anyone with a missing or broken tooth who wants to chew better, improve their smile, feel healthier, and have greater confidence.



## Am I healthy enough for dental implants?

Placing a dental implant is considered a minor surgery. Therefore, all potential dental implant patients should talk with their health care provider and dentist prior to undergoing surgery. A few health conditions that may affect a patient's eligibility for an implant include the following:

- Current or past use of IV bisphosphonates (A class of drugs used to treat bone cancers and advanced osteoporosis);
- Current or past use of immunosuppressants (A class of drugs used to treat autoimmune diseases);
- A history of head and neck radiation;
- Uncontrolled diabetes (A1C below 7% required for surgery).



## Am I too old for dental implants?

There is no age limit to have a dental implant. What is most important is that the patient is healthy enough to undergo a minor surgery. Our office has placed implants in patients ranging from 21 years old to 90 years old!



## Am I a candidate for dental implants?

There are two main conditions that we use to assess a patient's eligibility for dental implants. We work with the patient to determine if:

- There are any underlying health and medical concerns (Most patients are healthy enough for dental implants); and
- The patient has enough bone to support a dental implant.



## How do I know if I have enough bone for a dental implant?

Dentists must use a 3D CBCT scan to determine if there is enough bone to support the dental implant screw. A CBCT scan is a smaller version of a medical CT scan that gives us a three-dimension view of your upper and lower jaws and all of the important anatomy. We have a CBCT machine in our office and it takes less than 5 minutes to take this 3D scan.



## Do dental implants hurt?

Most patients report only minor discomfort for about one to two days following their surgery. Any discomfort is most commonly well controlled with a regular Tylenol or Ibuprofen. However, a patient's level of discomfort following surgery depends upon a few factors, including how many implants are placed. For example, a patient getting a whole upper or lower set of implants could potentially have a little more soreness for a longer period of time compared to a patient getting a single implant.





## Do I have to take off work after dental implant surgery?

Most of our patients who get between one to three implants are able to work following their surgery. Immediately after surgery, patients will need to avoid lifting heavy weights, smoking, and using straws, however, these minimal restrictions do not typically affect their ability to work. For patients who get four or more implants placed at one time, we often recommend taking a day or two off of work to recover. Our office tries to reserve Thursday and some Friday appointments for patients undergoing larger surgeries so they can rest at home over the weekend.



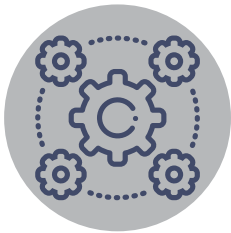
## Do I need to be sedated during dental implant surgery?

The vast majority of our patients choose not to be sedated during their surgery. We use special techniques to make sure all patients are numb and comfortable. Once the patient is numb, there is little difference sensory wise between an implant surgery and having any other basic dental work done like fillings or crowns. However, when we are placing multiple implants at one time or for patients with dental anxiety, we do offer a few different oral sedation options. These include oral sedation options (taking a pill the morning of the surgery) as well as IV sedation/anesthesia (patients asleep during surgery).



## How long is the overall process to get a new tooth with a dental implant?

The first step of the process is placing the dental implant screw. The reason that dental implants are so strong and stable is because over time they actually bind to the patients bone through a healing process called osseointegration—meaning a direct structural and functional connection between living bone and the surface of a dental implant. For implants in the upper mouth, this healing process takes about 12-16 weeks. In the lower mouth, the healing process takes about 10-12 weeks. Once the healing process is complete, the patient can be fitted for a crown by returning to the office so we can take an impression of the of the implant. The time between the impression and placement of the crown can take up to 4 weeks. For cases where multiple crowns will be added, this may take closer to 6-8 weeks..



## What is the difference between mini dental implants and standard dental implants?

This is a great question that we get asked all the time. Mini dental implants were initially developed in the early 2000's to help temporarily keep dentures from moving on patients that were undergoing standard implant therapy. Once their standard implants were ready for placement, the mini implants were removed.

At some point over the last fifteen years, some doctors began using mini dental implants as a long-term implant solution for their patients. Unfortunately, there is little to no scientific research that supports the appropriate use of mini dental implants as a long-term implant solution. For this reason, we do not place mini dental implants in our office. The best implant surgeons in the world all continue to use standard size dental implants, which are supported by high quality research and decades of proven success.



## Are dental implants expensive?

Like anything health related, high quality care is an investment in yourself and your future. Dental implants are an investment that can pay dividends for the rest of your life in terms of your ability to comfortably chew, confidently smile, and successfully achieve optimal healthfulness. According to the American Dental Association, the average price of a dental implant ranges between \$3,500-\$5,000, depending upon the skill level of the doctor and the geographical location. At our office, it is our goal to ensure our high quality care is accessible to all of our patients. We offer our patients a variety of payment options to help them achieve their oral healthcare goals.



## How can I begin exploring my options related to dental implants?

You can call 724-864-6530 or email ([info@lincolncrossingsdentalcare.com](mailto:info@lincolncrossingsdentalcare.com)) our office to speak with our Patient Care Coordinator, Jen. She will talk to you about coming into the office for a preliminary consultation or for our New Patient Experience, which is a comprehensive assessment of your current oral health.



## About Lincoln Crossings Dental Care

We believe you deserve a “wow” dental experience where highly personalized care meets clinical excellence in a relaxing environment that makes you feel like you’re the only patient here. We always say that we serve people, not patients. From the moment you walk through the door, you are our special guest. Expect personalized attention, remarkable hospitality, an exceedingly thorough evaluation, tailored treatment, and unmatched clinical care.



## Why choose Dr. Stryker



Experience- Dr. Stryker earned his Fellowship in the International Congress of Oral Implantologist, the worlds largest dental implant service organization. He comes with years of experience and is able to complete all aspects of dental implant procedure, from start to finish. No more going to 2 or 3 doctors to have the implant process completed. With his advanced training he also is able to offer a variety of dental implant care including: implant bridges, implant dentures, fixed implant supported teeth (All-on-4), Full arch dental implants, as well as bone, sinus, and soft tissue grafting.

Immediate Implants- Many times the dental implant can be inserted at the same time the bad or broken tooth is removed. This has 2 huge benefits; first, it allows for a quicker healing, cutting the total time to get your new tooth almost in half! Second, we are able to maintain the tooth and gums natural anatomy and create a more life like tooth restoration. What that means for our patients is they are less likely to get annoying food trapped around their implant which can lead to cavities and gum disease in the adjacent teeth next to the implant.

Technology- Dr. Stryker uses advanced 3D imagining technology and virtual planning software to know where the implant is going before the patient even sits in the chair! This reduces the time of the surgery and leads to a more predictable outcome.





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