

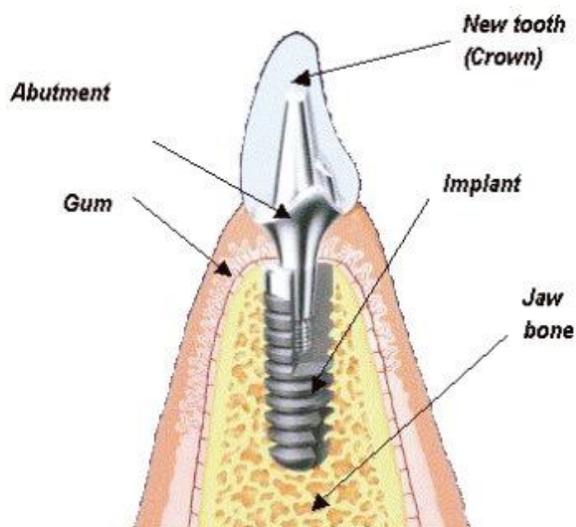
Missing teeth-Dental Implants Explained



A Dental Implant is a titanium cylinder that is placed gently into bone to replace a root of a tooth.

There are 3 parts to a Complete Single Dental Implant :

1. Dental Implant
2. Abutment (or Post)
3. Dental Crown



A close-up Illustration of a Typical Screw-Implant



Dental Implants can be used to permanently fix a Dental Bridge Prosthesis to replace from 3 to 12 teeth



A smaller number of Dental Implants can also be used to securely support loose dentures. The Denture is still removable but a lot tighter and more stable.

If you have missing teeth, be it 1 tooth or 32 teeth there are always only 4 options available to you:

1/ Do nothing 2/ Wear a removable denture 3/ Have a bridge 4/ Have Dental Implants placed with either a crown, bridge or denture fixed on top.

If you do nothing there are obvious consequences such as 'a toothless smile,' and less chewing power which means more strain is placed on the remaining teeth. Less obviously; the teeth around the missing tooth usually move, so the tooth behind or in front can tilt and drift into the gap. The opposing tooth can keep growing down or up into the gap. This will adversely affect the bite and can lead to further tooth loss.

Wearing a denture conveniently replaces the tooth or teeth but has the disadvantage of having to be removed for cleaning, often they can be loose, get food underneath, strip gums or give less chewing power all depending on the quality of remaining teeth and gum available.

A bridge is where the missing tooth or teeth are attached to the remaining teeth. This is usually done with metal wings that are bonded on or full crowns. A full assessment of the teeth on either side needs to be carried out to assess the suitability of a bridge.

The ultimate option is having dental implants with a fixed bridge or crown as this feels like having your own real teeth back. Unlike a bridge a Dental Implant does not affect the teeth on either side by cutting them, bonding to them and placing more strain on them.

At Village Dental Care all the advantages and disadvantages of each option are discussed in detail so that together with the patient the best option is found for each individual. If you are interested in dental implants I do carry out free consultations so please do contact the surgery and arrange an appointment if you wish to do so.