



Dental Implants Compared To Bridges and Dentures

Benefits of implants over other cosmetic procedures

Many adults face the problem of missing teeth. For years, dentures and bridges were the treatment of choice and patients had to come to terms with the often painful, embarrassing, and uncomfortable results. Dental implants offer a more natural, comfortable and long-term alternative that you should consider.

Dental implants vs. traditional dental bridge

A single dental implant is now considered the standard of care for those missing a single tooth. Unfortunately, most dentists are not trained in the placement of dental implants, so the most commonly used solution is a fixed dental bridge. This approach involves grinding down the two surrounding healthy teeth, so that they may act as anchors for a three-unit bridge (three artificial teeth) that is then cemented onto the two surrounding teeth.

The damage to the structure of the surrounding teeth is permanent. Further, statistics reveal that these damaged teeth eventually fail due to the stresses placed on them by the bridge. The result is the eventual loss of those teeth and an even longer bridge.

A single dental implant offers a vastly superior solution because it restores the lost tooth root, and surrounding healthy teeth remain unharmed. Your natural tooth root helps maintain bone density, but when you have the unfortunate occurrence of losing a tooth, the bone will deteriorate overtime.

101 N. Pointe Blvd. Suite 201 Lancaster PA 17601

717.581.0123 | dental@smilesbystevensdmd.com

Since dental implants integrate with existing bone, your jaw structure remains intact and your oral health is preserved. In many cases, a single dental implant and an attached temporary crown can be placed in one day. However, this reduces the long-term success rate from 99% to about 90%. The preferred approach is to place the dental implant and allow it to bond to the bone for 3 to 4 months before placing a permanent implant crown.

Multiple advantages of a dental implant over dentures or bridges:

Dental implants have proven to be more effective and practical than other options. Some of the areas in which implants have shown to be superior include:

Aesthetics - Bone loss and gum recession are common side effects of bridgework and dentures. Dental implants integrate into the structure of your bone to avoid these unpleasant occurrences, providing an extremely natural look and feel.

Comfort - Missing teeth impact daily activities such as eating or speaking, often causes discomfort. Messy pastes and glues are often necessary to avoid irritating clicks and wobbles associated with dentures. The security and reliability of dental implants help patients eat and speak with comfort and confidence.

Non-invasive - Bridgework sometimes requires neighboring teeth for support, sacrificing their integrity. Choosing dental implants will guarantee that more of your teeth are left untouched which will lead to improved long-term oral health.

Reliability - Experts consider dental implants an excellent treatment option for replacement of missing teeth. Implants boast a high success rate among patients and require no maintenance other than routine care.

If you have missing teeth, dental implants are a permanent solution that can help preserve adjacent teeth, prevent bone loss, and can promote healthy gums; all while restoring your beautiful smile. Dental implants look and feel completely natural, and also allow you to chew properly, so you can once again enjoy the foods you love.

101 N. Pointe Blvd. Suite 201 Lancaster PA 17601

717.581.0123 | dental@smilesbystevensdmd.com

A dental implant is an artificial (titanium) tooth root that Dr. Stevens places into your jaw to hold a replacement tooth or bridge. Implants are an ideal option for people in good general oral health who have lost a tooth or teeth due to periodontal disease, an injury, or some other reason. While the procedure is technical in nature, dental implants are more practical than traditional bridgework, since implants do not rely on neighboring teeth for support.

Dental implants look and feel natural, and under proper conditions and diligent patient maintenance, they can last a lifetime. Long-term studies continue to show a 20-year success rate of 95% for implants. No other tooth replacement treatment can claim such success. Implants have also shown the added benefit of helping patients speak better and eat more comfortably. If you are in need of dental implants in Lancaster, York, Harrisburg or surrounding areas, Dr. Stevens has you covered.

Problems with dentures and dental bridges

Today, bridges and full or partial dentures are common treatments for replacing teeth, however, these options can cause issues. Bridges rely on healthy teeth for support and adjacent teeth often must be ground down. The adjacent, healthy teeth often later have problems of their own, creating new and costly dental work. Bridges also require a high-degree of maintenance, often having to be replaced within five to ten years.

Although dentures are usually the least expensive treatment option for missing teeth, they can be uncomfortable, difficult to maintain, and can pose many problems for you. They are often uncomfortable and can fall out during eating or activities, causing embarrassment. Removable dentures can also cause painful mouth sores. It is necessary to remove dentures at night for cleaning and to keep them in place with adhesives, which can be a nuisance. Because they are much less efficient than normal teeth, certain foods such as fruit and nuts must be avoided with dentures. Speaking is more difficult and less natural with dentures and, as a removable device, dentures can be easily misplaced.

Because neither bridges nor dentures stimulate bone growth, patients may experience extreme bone loss over time, giving them an older and less attractive appearance.

101 N. Pointe Blvd. Suite 201 Lancaster PA 17601

717.581.0123 | dental@smilesbystevensdmd.com

Dental implants are a permanent, long-term solution for patients missing one, several, or all of their teeth. With dental implants, you can eat normal foods, and because implants are self-supportive, there is no need to damage your remaining natural teeth. Unlike dentures or bridges, implants stimulate bone growth just like natural teeth and never have to be removed. They are comfortable, attractive and promote a healthy jawbone.

Most dentists in Lancaster do not offer dental implants. Contact Dr. Shea F. Stevens to schedule a consultation at 717.581.0123.

101 N. Pointe Blvd. Suite 201 Lancaster PA 17601

717.581.0123 | dental@smilesbystevensdmd.com