



Learn the Basics

**Dental Implant
Treatment at
Pi Dental Center**



Dental implants are the first choice for dental care. Here is a guide to dental implants for patients with missing teeth.

What Are Dental Implants?

Osseointegrated implants are effective in over ninety-six percent of all patients treated. Pi Dental Center is one of the leading centers for osseointegrated dental implants in the United States.

A natural tooth consists of a crown (the part you see above the gum), and the root (the part hidden under the gum). It is the root in the jawbone that actually holds the natural tooth in place. A dental implant is a small man-made titanium fixture that serves as a replacement for the root portion of a missing natural tooth. Titanium is used because it is the most compatible with our human body. The dental implant is placed in the bone of the upper or lower jaw and functions as an anchor for the replacement tooth. After the bone has grown around the implant, implants can hold a crown, bridge or overdenture just like roots hold natural teeth in place.

Implants provide additional support where teeth are missing without putting forces onto remaining natural teeth. They may be used to support the replacement of a single missing tooth or a complete functional set for individuals who have lost many or all of their teeth.

With over four decades of clinical success, Swedish and American research has proven that the dental implants are viable solution for replacement of missing teeth.

What to Expect

There are usually two things that stand between a patient and a new smile with dental implants. One is making the financial investment and the other is fear of the unknown.

The Pi Dental Center is dedicated to removing fear from the dental implant procedure. We begin by providing as much information as possible to our prospective patients via our online presence, our printed materials, and our knowledgeable telephone staff.

Walking through our glass doors, every patient considering a dental implant procedure should feel a sense of welcome and confidence that is uncharacteristic of most healthcare facilities. Step one is to remove all uneasiness.

Your First Visit to Pi

The first visit is a comprehensive examination of the teeth including radiography and “impressions” and scans (which create models of your teeth). Your doctor will design an ideal customized treatment plan for your dental implant procedure and usually at least one possible alternative. This plan will be presented to the patient in a written document during this visit or at the patient’s convenience on another date. A staff member will explain the plan in detail and answer all questions.

There is no time limit on this initial visit. The more you understand, the better our relationship will be.



Your Second Visit

If the patient elects to pursue dental implant care, the next appointment is the Teeth in a Day[®] experience. A patient can leave this appointment with attractive non-removable

temporary teeth. The length of this visit is dependent on the number of implants placed and the complexity of the placement; however an average procedure runs 2 to 3 hours, including the placement of the teeth on the implants. The recent development of the AvaDent[®] fully milled monolithic provisional prosthesis now adds additional strength to the temporary implant supported teeth.

Most patients choose to have the implants surgically placed with local anesthesia (awake), but for those who prefer to sleep through the procedure, we provide the services of a first class general anesthesia team.

The staff will be ready with ice packs to reduce the degree of facial swelling after surgery and will carefully explain the healing “tips” for quick recovery. Most post-operative discomfort from the dental implant procedure can be blamed on swelling, so patient cooperation with ice minimizes the impact.

Some patients go back to work the same day and never miss a beat. Others like to see it through with rest and relaxation for several days. Normally we schedule a brief appointment one

week after the dental implant procedure to remove sutures; most patients are completely comfortable by this visit.

Will the procedure hurt?

Most patients tell us the procedure itself is not particularly painful. Most patients have dental implant procedures with local anesthesia and are kept comfortable throughout the duration. Some patients find having to “open wide” for the length of the procedure tedious, but this is very short-lived discomfort. Patients who closely adhere to post-op instructions for home care find that recovery from dental implant surgery is quick and minimally disruptive.

How long will it take?

A single tooth implant or the replacement of dentures with fixed teeth on implants can take less than an hour. More complex procedures will take two to four hours to place the implants and deliver a temporary non-removable set of teeth.

The doctor can estimate the expected time for the procedure during the diagnostic visit, so that the patient can anticipate correctly. The more experience the doctor has with placing implants, the less time the procedure will take. The Pi Dental Center provides patients with fast paced surgical skill and maximum time efficiency.

The Healing Phase of Treatment

The next phase involves no appointments unless a patient inadvertently breaks a temporary tooth or develops an unexpected complication. This is the time when the bone heals to the surface of the implants to form the solid roots that will accept the permanent teeth. This process usually takes from 3 to 6 months. Midway through the 3 month healing period, a session is usually scheduled with a Pi Dental Center

hygienist who will clean the provisional teeth and instruct you on effective home care oral hygiene techniques.

Once the bone has fused to the implants, a completely diagnostic visit is scheduled. This visit may be lengthy. It allows the doctor and the laboratory time to design each minute detail of what will become the final smile. The temporary teeth are then reapplied and the lab goes to work to create the masterpiece.



The Final Smile

Approximately six weeks later, the patient is scheduled for the delivery of the final teeth. This visit resembles a celebration. Replacing the temporary teeth with the final teeth is usually quick and requires no anesthesia.

It is more about the face in the mirror, the cameras flashing, and the rejoicing at the end of the journey. Nothing is left but to flash the solid, healthy, confident smile that often changes a whole life. Future appointments are simply for routine check-ups and regular hygiene maintenance.

Remember that at the Pi Dental Center, everything happens under one roof with the same team for all phases of your dental implant procedure. We have served thousands of dental implant patients from across the globe. Our center is one of its kind near the Philadelphia, New Jersey and New York regions.

Ten Reasons to Choose Implants

Removable Dentures Vs. Dental Implants

Full dentures are the most common restoration used for patients missing all of their natural teeth. The only other alternative to a complete removable denture is a dental implant supported prosthesis. Although removable dentures are usually the most inexpensive option for tooth replacement, they can be uncomfortable and inconvenient. You might ask, “Is there an option that is similar to dentures, but better?”

Dental implants are an alternative to consider!

A dental implant is a small man-made titanium fixture that serves as a replacement for the root portion of a missing natural tooth. Titanium is used because it is most compatible with our human body. The dental implant is placed in the bone of the upper or lower jaw and functions as an anchor for the replacement tooth.

1) Improved Appearance: Dental implant supported prostheses are more natural than removable dentures in appearance and more attractive. They look and feel like natural teeth. Since bone fuses to the implants, the prosthesis is non-removable.

2) Improved Confidence: Removable dentures become loose and can rock and cause embarrassment for the wearer. With the dental implant prosthesis, a person can feel confident that



teeth will not move. All regular activities can be performed without fear of embarrassment.

3) Comfort and Convenience: Removable dentures can cause sore spots in the mouth under the denture. With a dental implant supported prostheses there are no sore spots. Removable dentures can be inconvenient because they require removal at night and for cleaning. They require messy adhesives. Patients with dental implants do not experience these embarrassing situations.

4) Durability: Implants have a high rate of success and durability. They last many years. With good health and meticulous oral care, implants can last a lifetime.

5) Improved Eating: Removable dentures can slide during eating and make eating a complicated and unhappy activity. The ability to chew foods improves dramatically with dental implants. While removable dentures are only 20% to 25% as efficient as a person's natural teeth, implant supported prostheses are 80% as efficient. A prosthesis supported by dental implants functions like natural teeth making eating an enjoyable and easy experience.

6) Improved Taste: A full upper removable denture covers the roof of the mouth. Food is more difficult to taste and enjoy. With an implant-supported prosthesis, the roof of the mouth is not covered and food can be tasted fully.

7) Improved Nutrition and Health: Many foods cannot be eaten with removable dentures. With an implant-supported prosthesis, people are able to eat a varied, healthful diet that

includes all necessary food groups for improved nutrition. Chewy and crunchy foods such as carrots, lettuce and apples can be added to the diet.

8) Improved Speech: Removable dentures can make speaking sound garbled. The teeth can slip within the mouth causing mumbling or slurring of words. With dental implants normal speech is usually not a problem and patients can feel confident that the teeth will not slip during conversation.

9) Reduced Chance of Loss: Removable dentures can be easily lost. Dental implant supported prostheses cannot be removed and misplaced.

10) Bone Growth: One of most devastating problems for patients wearing removable dentures is the loss of bone that occurs over time. Gradually removable dentures become more difficult to wear because of this bone loss. The ridge gradually wears away providing less and less ridge to support the denture. Dental implants act like natural teeth and aid in bone stimulation and growth.

With a high rate of long-term success, greater comfort and improved quality of life, dental implants are the best choice for people of all ages.

What is a Prosthodontist?

A prosthodontist is a dentist who has completed dental school plus three additional years of advanced training and education in an ADA-accredited prosthodontic graduate program.

Prosthodontists specialize in treating and handling dental and facial problems that involve restoring and replacing teeth



and contiguous structures. A prosthodontist is highly trained in cosmetics, dental implants, crowns, bridges, dentures, temporomandibular disorders (TMJ) and more.

Reduce Your Risks by Consulting With a Prosthodontist

You should always begin with a prosthodontist. To achieve maximum dental function, superior aesthetics and total comfort, the engineering expertise of a trained and board certified prosthodontist is key to long term satisfaction.

Patients who reap the greatest reward from dental implant treatment are those currently wearing full upper and/or lower dentures and those about to approach the edentulous state (having no natural teeth) due to trauma, decay, infection or bone deterioration.

It is always best to protect and preserve healthy natural teeth. But some patients have conditions that reach the stage of no repair. That means money invested in any form of dental “patching” will be short-lived and could actually make the problem even worse. The broad spectrum advice of a prosthodontist is invaluable in this scenario.

The smile is meant to be locked in place. Even the best fitting removable dentures sacrifice quality of life for the patient. They are as unnatural to the human psyche as a prosthetic arm or a prosthetic leg. Removing a part of the body at night defies human instinct.

Besides psychological contraindications, dentures inhibit many comforts of life. Because they are prone to mobility, they have their own distinctive “snap, crackle, pop” sound bite. Food is easily caught beneath them causing painful abrasions and some foods become outlawed for life due to mechanical restrictions caused by loose arches of amorphous acrylic posing as teeth.

Dentures accelerate aging. Dental Implants preserve youth.

The bone holding the dentures in place begins to shrink once there is an absence of root structure. The dentures then loosen and require relining or rebuilding, while the supporting cheek tissue often collapses prematurely, causing wrinkles on the face.

Natural teeth that are loose or decayed and gum tissue that is infected, or inflamed usually signify a final choice between dentures or dental implants. This is where a prosthodontist can help.

Dental implants are always the preferred choice, as they recreate a healthy new root system for teeth effectively bonding to human bone. Prosthetic teeth that remain fixed in the mouth are then attached to the implants, creating a decay free environment with function, comfort, and esthetics far superior to removable dentures.

A board certified prosthodontist supported by a sophisticated, high tech dental laboratory can create prosthetic smiles that almost perfectly mimic natural teeth.

In cases where the mouth is healthy except for a single tooth or a few adjacent teeth, dental implants placed by an experienced prosthodontist may still be the best choice. Because of their longevity and stability and because they stand free of other healthy teeth in the mouth, no other teeth are compromised in the treatment process.

Dental Implants versus Crowns or Bridges

Single crowns, which are built upon natural roots, remain subject to the health of that root, leaving open the possibility of further decay, the need for a root canal and the replacement of the crown. Dental implants do not decay. A single tooth built on a dental implant has a long healthy life. Similarly, bridges are dependent on anchorage to natural teeth and only last as long as the anchor teeth remain healthy.

Everyday Rewards With Dental Implants

- Enjoying favorites foods with no repercussions
- No mobility inside the mouth—no more glue or dental adhesive!
- No restrictions to the palate. Clumsy plastic is gone.
- Wide smiles. Hearty Laughs. Full confidence.
- Enjoy young teeth at any age.

Almost everyone can be a candidate for dental implant care.

Dental implant treatment is possible for almost any patient and it comes with very few known risks. Published success rates are very high.

In addition to the skill of the prosthodontist, the engaged compliance of the patient is critical to the successful outcome of dental implant treatment.

Patients need to understand that dental implant treatment is a surgical procedure associated with all normal surgical risks and that it is not purely cosmetic. While the new smile is the closest thing available to natural teeth, there are some compromises.

Your prosthodontist will warn you: Smoking is the greatest enemy to the success of dental implant treatment. The fusion of bone to the titanium implant and the healing process can only take place in an oral environment that is not exposed to smoke. Smoking also has detrimental systemic effects on circulation and bone metabolism.

Statistics indicate that smoking inhibits the integration of the titanium implants with natural bone but it also affects the cleanliness of the mouth, creating an environment prone to infection. Small areas of space between prosthetic teeth and gum tissue require patients to develop strong dental hygiene habits. Routine visits to the hygienist in the prosthodontist's office safeguard the health of dental implants.

Avoiding Chips and Breaks

Because dental implants do not have the sensitivity that is found in natural roots, patients with prosthetic smiles sometimes misjudge the pressure they exert when biting into hard foods. It is common to break or chip a prosthetic tooth. It is also normally a quick and easy “fix” by your prosthodontist and the dental laboratory. Adjusting to one’s prosthetic bite power can eliminate breakage.

Patients with particularly intense personalities and who are prone to clenching their teeth or bruxing while sleeping, may repeatedly damage prosthetic teeth. This can generally be handled by wearing a simple night guard, however, discussing this possibility in advance with the prosthodontist will allow the lab to build extra strength into the teeth.

Dental Implant Technology

The evolution of dental implant technology has made a huge improvement for denture patients.

The team at Pi Dental Implant Center has blended decades of research with constantly emerging new technology and materials to ensure that our patients receive the most scientifically advanced treatment and the most natural looking replacement teeth available.

Dental implants have become more predictable, enduring and cost effective than other dental solutions and are now stronger, more permanent and possible for virtually almost any patient.

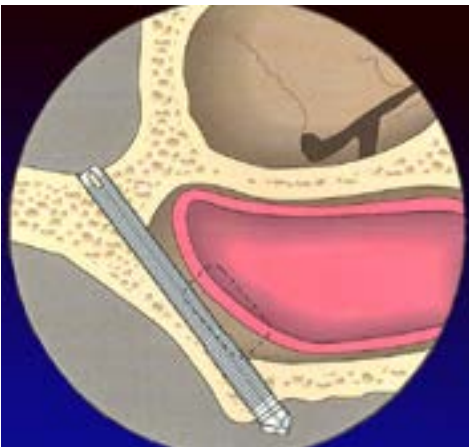
Teeth in a Day® is Pi’s own trademark and it represents an exclusive delivery system for a smile built upon dental

implants achieved in a single visit. Often imitated, but never duplicated, the Pi treatment protocol begins with case planning and incorporates every detail through the delivery of the customized final teeth. Patients who opt for this procedure arrive in our center with severely compromised dental conditions and leave the same day with beautiful healthy new smiles.

Pi Dental Center is also a strong resource for **“No Bone Solutions.”** When a patient is told they have insufficient bone to retain an implant-supported prosthesis, Pi is one of the few dental centers in the country with extensive experience using zygomatic implants.

Zygomatic Implants

In the past, patients with very little bone in the upper arch were treated with bone grafting to enable dental implant placement. An alternative to bone grafting is the Zygomatic implant. Results of studies show an overall implant success rate of 96.3%. The patients were fully satisfied with the esthetic



and functional outcome of treatment and the study showed that the Zygomatic implant is a predictable method of implant rehabilitation.

The All-On-4® Treatment Concept is a dental implant protocol in which an upper or lower arch can be

restored with non-removable teeth using only four implants. This affordable procedure has become very popular among patients. The All-On-4® treatment concept has a long history at Pi and has been consistently refined to give patients an

attractive alternative to traditional dentures.

The AvaDent® Digital Implant Supported Prosthesis is the newest and most reliable prosthesis available. It is made digitally from sophisticated precision data, with an excellent fit and high level of comfort. Nothing is compromised in the achievement of esthetics, AvaDent® looks natural.

General Anesthesia

Most dental procedures can be made comfortable for the patient with local anesthesia. However, some patients and some procedures require total relaxation. We are pleased to offer highly skilled professional general anesthesia services, provided by a board certified anesthesia team using leading-edge methods and medications.

How do I maintain my dental implants?

Long Term Success

Long-term success of implants depends on how well they are maintained. Regular dental visits are essential. Your dentist will develop a dental visit program to ensure the health of your implants and remaining natural teeth.

Periodontal disease can strike when teeth and gums are not properly cleaned. If left untreated bone loss, which weakens supporting structures, can lead to loss of dental implants as well as tooth loss.

Home Care:

Daily brushing and flossing are absolutely necessary for long-term success. There are also many supplemental products that allow you to clean the implants properly. Your dentist will design a home care regime that will suit your individual needs.

Brushing:

Your dentist may recommend a cordless electric toothbrush. Whether you use a standard brush or electric toothbrush, your dentist and hygienist will review your brushing techniques to ensure that you are cleaning the area properly.

Oral Irrigation Systems:

Research has shown that oral irrigation is effective in reducing plaque accumulation around dental implants and natural teeth. Your dentist may also suggest that you use a special mouth rinse.

Flossing:

Good home care includes daily flossing. Floss threaders are very helpful in allowing you to reach around implants, under bridges and bars so these areas can be easily cleaned. Your dentist may also recommend special types of floss.

Interproximal Brushes:

These small dental brushes, also called “Proxy Brushes”, are specifically designed to clean between the teeth and implants. While not a replacement for dental floss they are helpful in cleaning hard to reach areas.

Dental Visits:

It is typically recommended that patients visit their dentist for professional cleanings every 3-6 months. However, your dentist will design a dental visit program specifically for you.

Toothpastes:

Most toothpastes contain fluoride, since they are designed for natural teeth. Fluoride does not hurt dental implant restorations.

Avoid toothpastes that contain excessively abrasive ingredients (baking soda, stain removers, smoker's toothpastes, etc). Abrasive toothpastes can create wear on acrylic and can remove the glaze on porcelain.

Mouthwashes:

Most commercial mouth rinses are designed to give a "fresh breath feeling." Alcohol is used in most mouth rinses and could cause dryness of the mouth. Patients who have dry mouth should avoid mouth rinses that contain alcohol. There are plenty of alcohol-free mouth rinses available today.

Fees and Insurance

Though a lifetime smile is an invaluable human asset, we are sensitive that some treatment requires a substantial financial investment. Our patient relations coordinators are at your service to review treatment plans, to explain costs and to discuss finance options.

Dental insurance programs tend to be complex and confusing. Our insurance specialist will assist you in maximizing your benefits and your personal reimbursement from your insurance carrier; however, we do not deal directly with dental insurance companies nor accept their standard as the appropriate cost of comprehensive quality care.

Pi Dental Center is long established providing for progressive, innovative dental solutions, serving people of all ages, anxiety levels and esthetic requirements. Our experienced doctors, researchers, clinical assistants, hygienists, lab technicians and caring administrative staff are known for creating extraordinary enduring smiles with state-of-the-art concepts and materials.



Our years of research have led to our trademarked Teeth In A Day® protocol, a landmark in dental medicine.

We are dedicated not only to improving appearance and function, but to bringing out the natural smile inside of every patient who enters our doors.

Entrust us with one of the greatest human tools for success - your smile. At Pi Dental you will find the skill of unparalleled experience, dedication to the most precise technology available, personal integrity and friendly warmth.



About Pi

Pi Dental Center is a one-of-a-kind prosthodontic institution, founded in 1986 to be a comprehensive center for clinical treatment and cutting-edge scientific research.

Approaching its fourth decade, Pi Dental Center creates sparkling smiles that have character and longevity. Our board certified prosthodontists are globally renowned for publications in dental journals and clinical expertise.

While all types of restorative and cosmetic dentistry are performed at Pi Dental Center with meticulous attention, we are best known for experience and success with dental implant treatment.

Call Pi Dental Center if you would like to schedule an appointment for evaluation or if you have questions about treatment. We look forward to hearing from you.



Pi Dental Center

467 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 201

Fort Washington, PA 19034

215-646-6334

piteam@pidentalcenter.com