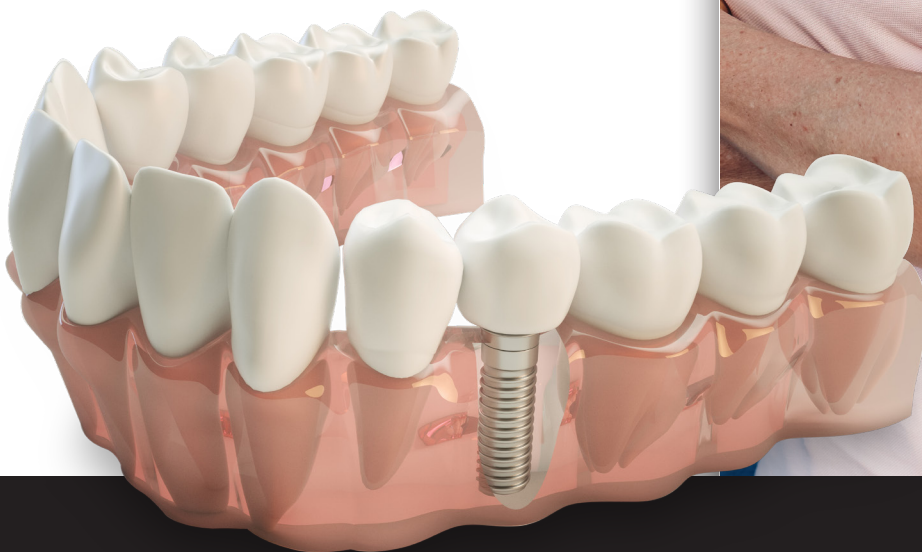


5 MISTAKES TO AVOID WHEN CONSIDERING DENTAL IMPLANTS

If you have decayed or missing teeth, dental implants can bring lasting dental health, a restored quality of life, and enhanced confidence. You never have to dread eating, speaking, laughing or smiling again. All that said, it's important that you make the right choices about your dental implants in order to experience the results you desire. We hope this list of common mistakes to avoid will help make your journey to your ideal smile a smooth one!

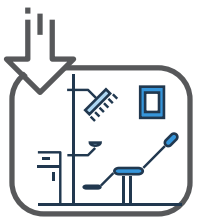


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Choosing the Wrong Doctor

While many types of dentists are able to place dental implants, specialists such as periodontists, prosthodontists, and oral and maxillofacial surgeons have years of additional training in implants that other dental school graduates don't. You may also want to look at how many years they've been in practice, how long they've been offering dental implants, and whether or not they take part in continuing education courses to keep their skills up to date. When choosing a doctor, don't deny yourself the advantages of the most qualified ones!



Settling for Inferior Technology

You may have a highly qualified doctor to place your dental implants, but do they use technology that will ensure exceptional outcomes? Cone beam CT technology not only gives your doctor the 360-degree, three-dimensional images of your mouth they need to plan your implant procedure in advance, it also works with a fraction of the radiation of typical CT equipment. In addition, guided implant surgery technology enables a doctor to precisely fit the implants in your mouth for optimal esthetics and functioning with little chance for error. Does your implant doctor use these tools? Be sure to ask!



Focusing on the Short-Term

If you know you need multiple implants, and the teeth that will surround them are already in questionable health, you may want to consider a full arch solution instead of individual implants. This will save you from undergoing additional procedures in the future. Remember, dental implants are an investment in your long-term smile and in your health. Look to your doctor to recommend the best course of treatment to protect them both!



Expecting Not to Qualify for Dental Implants

Several factors figure into qualifying for dental implants. The condition of your mouth is one consideration. In some cases, you may not need dental implants because a less complex solution is available. In other cases, you may need other treatments before you can get implants. While you may have been turned down at some practices for various reasons, other practices might be able to provide the extra treatment required to place your dental implants. Don't give up after the first opinion!



Assuming Dental Implants Aren't Affordable

Most practices offer flexible financing and payment plans that will enable you to make smaller recurring payments rather than paying for your dental implants all at once. Money needn't stop you from having a fully restored and beautiful smile. Ask about your financing options!

Following these guidelines can help you make the best decisions about your new teeth!

