

Types of Dental Implants

There are several types of dental implants, but the most common type placed currently are endosseous implants. These implants replace the previous roots as anchors for a type of prosthesis, or simply as anchors to retain a removable prosthesis. The vast majority are 99.9% commercially pure titanium. There are some ceramic implants made and some alloys of titanium and ceramic, but by far the majority are titanium.

Implants vary by design due to the manufacturer and patents, but basically, they are different in size and length. Today, they all are commonly threaded, like a screw, and are inserted by preparing the site with a hole smaller than the implant and then the implant is screwed into place very slowly, providing initial primary stability for healing and osseointegration. The area of the implant left exposed to the oral environment has a precision milled opening that can accept components to then use the implant with specific parts after healing.

Small Diameter Implants (SDI), sometimes referred to **mini-implants** are usually a one-piece implant that typically has a ball shaped end that is in the oral environment, and not an opening. The diameter typically varies between 1.25 mm to 2.75 mm. These require the same diagnosis and treatment planning but are easier to place and usually much less in cost. They can work very effectively for retaining denture. There is a need for 4 minimum for the mandibular/lower arch, and 6 for the maxillary/upper arch. They can also be useful for single tooth replacements like mandibular incisors and maxillary incisors, along with a crown restoration. Bridges with these are limited.

Regular diameter implants diameters vary from about 3mm to 5mm in diameter and about 8mm to 15mm in length. These are the most common sized implants placed currently. The implants have an open area at the top with a precision milled cone shaped receiver and area to accept a screw. After surgical placement, it has an implant *healing abutment* placed, screwed in, to seal the implant during the healing and integration period. Later, after healing and integration, that healing abutment can be removed to expose the access and receive an abutment, or other prosthetic component to make use of the implant.

Wide diameter implants are similar to the above regular diameter implants but vary from about 6mm to 9mm in diameter and about 8mm to 15mm in length. They are typically shorter than the regular diameter implants. Because of the size difference or a molar extraction site and a regular diameter implant, many times a molar is removed and bone graft material is placed and 6 months later the implant is placed. The advantage of a wide diameter implant is that many times they can be placed into an extracted molar area without waiting for the extraction to heal, and then have the implant placed. They also provide a better contour for the crown restoration to the tissue.

There are other styles and types of implants that have been designed and used, but these are the vast majority in use currently.

Implant Questions and Answers

1. [What are dental implants?](#)
2. [What are the benefits of dental implants?](#)
3. [Are dental implants safe?](#)
4. [Contraindications and Cautions](#)
5. [Cost of dental implants](#)
6. [Types of dental implants](#)
7. [How do I maintain my dental implants?](#)

If you have any questions about implant fees, please feel free to ask us.