

WHAT TO EXPECT

Dr. Karges can determine if you are a candidate for dental implants. You will be evaluated based upon a number of things including dental health, life-style, jawbone quality, and oral hygiene habits. In close consultation with your own dentist, Dr. Karges can plan your dental implant treatment program. Dental implant surgery is done in Dr. Karges's office.

A Two-Phase Procedure: for most patients, the placement of dental implants involves two surgical procedures. First, the implants are surgically placed into your jawbone. These small devices make up the framework needed to securely hold replacement teeth. For the first three to six months following surgery, the implants are beneath the surface of the gums, gradually bonding with the jawbone. During this time, you should be able to wear temporary dentures and eat with minimal discomfort.

A Single-Phase Procedure: some patients are candidates for immediate implant placement if conditions are favorable; however, your condition is unique and must be evaluated carefully to determine if you would benefit from single-phase implant placement. Additional procedures may be necessary in combination with the placement of dental implants (bone graft, sinus lift, etc.). Some patients do report minor pain and swelling immediately after the procedure but most experience no change in their daily routines. While the implants are bonding with the jawbone, new replacement teeth are fashioned by your dentist. The replacement teeth must clip onto the implants fit securely in the mouth and withstand the day-to-day movement and pressure created by chewing and speaking. So, it is important that they are created by a dentist with proper training in restorative techniques. Once the implants have bonded to the jawbone, the second phase of the procedure begins. At this time, Dr. Karges uncovers the implants and attaches small posts, which will act as anchors for the artificial teeth. The posts protrude through the gum line but are not visible when artificial teeth are attached. The entire process, from evaluation to completion, generally takes six to eight months. During this time, most patients do not experience any disruption in their normal business and social activities. Because dental implants are made of materials that are compatible with human bone, there is little chance for an allergic reaction in the body. However, implants can fail when proper oral hygiene techniques are not used. Dental implants require special individual care. Proper brushing, flossing, rinsing and regular check-ups are critical to the long-term success of your implants.

A TEAM EFFORT

Though dental implants are a relatively simple procedure, they generally warrant the expertise of two dental professionals- an oral and maxillofacial surgeon and a restorative dentist. Working as a team, Dr. Karges and the restorative dentist can determine if you are a candidate for implants and design an appropriate treatment plan. A restorative dentist, with training in dental implants, creates the replacement teeth. The doctor prepares the necessary molds and works with a dental laboratory to make sure that the denture or bridge will meet the particular needs of each patient. Additionally, dental implant patients should see a dentist for routine follow-up care and maintenance.

START A NEW WAY OF LIVING TODAY

If you are among the millions of Americans who suffer from permanent tooth loss, you can eliminate the problems and pain caused by dentures, bridges or missing teeth. You can begin to

rediscover the joy of eating healthy, speaking clearly and laughing comfortably. Take the first step.
Get the facts about dental implants.