

Department of Plastic and Oral Surgery

# Dental Implants



## LOCATIONS

### **Boston Children's Hospital**

300 Longwood Avenue  
Boston, MA 02115  
617-355-6259

### **Boston Children's Hospital at Waltham**

9 Hope Avenue  
Waltham, MA 02453  
781-216-1600

## International

For families residing outside of the United States, contact Boston Children's International Center, which facilitates the medical review of patient records and appointment scheduling and provides assistance with customs and immigration, transportation and hotel and housing accommodations.

01-617-355-5209 | [international.center@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:international.center@childrens.harvard.edu)

[bostonchildrens.org/plastics](http://bostonchildrens.org/plastics)



**Boston Children's Hospital**

Until every child is well<sup>SM</sup>

## Dental implants

A dental implant replaces a tooth. It has two parts:

- Titanium post (implant) that is placed into the bone and remains under the surface
- Tooth replacement (crown) that is above the bone

Implants can anchor one or several teeth to the jaw bone.

## Treatment with dental implants



Titanium implant



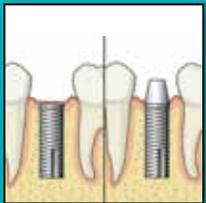
Titanium implant with prosthetic tooth



After numbing the area with local anesthesia, your surgeon will make a small opening in the gum tissue.



A hole is made in the bone in a precise location. The implant is placed into that position. The gum is closed around the implant with stitches.



After the implant integrates with the bone, an abutment (cap) is attached. In four to six weeks, the gum tissue will heal around the abutment.

## Candidates for dental implants

Based on an individual's need, the oral and maxillofacial surgeon can place a single implant to replace one tooth, or multiple implants to replace multiple teeth. The time required will vary depending on the complexity of the situation. Since your oral and maxillofacial surgeon will place the implant and your general dentist will place the crown, they will work together to plan the best treatment for you.

## Surgical risks and complications

Dental implants have a 95 percent success rate. However, as with any surgical procedure, there are risks and possible complications:

- Swelling, bruising and mild discomfort are normal for the first 24 to 72 hours after the procedure.
- A small amount of bleeding may occur for the first 24 to 48 hours.
- Numbness or tingling in the lip can occur. This should subside, but in rare instances, could be permanent.
- Sinus drainage or pain can occur if the implant was placed in the upper jaw.
- Jaw fractures and bone loss are rare, but can occur if the jaw is very small (atrophic) at the time of implant placement.

## Call your surgeon if

- Bleeding persists
- Pain in your jaw, mouth or sinuses does not stop after taking prescription medication
- You have a fever
- Your implant feels loose
- You have questions