

# Dental implants offer some unique advantages over bridges and dentures.



### What is a dental implant?

If you have a missing tooth or multiple missing teeth, your dentist might recommend a bridge, denture or a dental implant. A dental implant is an artificial tooth root that is fitted into the jawbone the way a natural tooth root would be. Once the implant is in place, an abutment (also called an extension) is attached to the top and an artificial tooth or crown is fitted over it.

There are two types of implants. The removable type is similar to a denture and snaps securely into place over one or more abutments. It can be easily removed for repair or daily cleaning. The fixed type is permanently screwed or cemented onto an individual abutment.

### What are the benefits of a dental implant?

Because dental implants are attached to your jawbone, they don't rely on adjacent teeth as anchors like bridges. They can also prevent bone loss associated with the loss of permanent teeth. And because they offer a firm foundation, they don't slip, make noise or cause bone damage like dentures can. This means you can eat, talk and smile without worrying about embarrassment.



Dental implants are attached to your jawbone, they don't rely on adjacent teeth as anchors



A dental implant is a small post made of titanium



Brush along the chewing surface of each tooth

### How do I care for my dental implants?

Implants, artificial teeth and gums must be kept clean and free of bacteria. A Sonicare toothbrush is proven to be gentle on implant materials, veneers, bridges and crowns.\* The soft bristles also prevent injury to the sensitive gums around your implant while the patented sonic technology delivers deep cleaning, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. All of this helps ensure that your implant is a lasting success.

\*Castellon R, Fernunson MA, Garcia-Godoy F, Johnson M, De Jager M. Data on file, 2007.