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A dental implant is an artificial tooth root that is put in place to hold a replacement tooth or bridge. They may be inserted by a dentist, oral surgeon or periodontist and are typically made from titanium.

Not everyone is a candidate for dental implants. Because the implant must be inserted in to or on the jawbone, an adequate amount of bone is required for the procedure, and healthy gums and overall general health are preferred as well.

The advantages of dental implants are many. Let's take a look at what dental implants can do for you:

1. Provide support for a denture or bridge, giving you a feeling of security and increased comfort.
2. Replace one or more teeth without affecting any neighboring teeth.
3. Give you improved function by providing the same biting force as natural teeth. If you have missing teeth, broken or rotting teeth, or dentures, you may have found it necessary to avoid certain foods as they may have been too painful or even impossible to eat.
4. Improve your smile by blending in perfectly with your other teeth, and providing a natural looking secure smile.

Other options for tooth replacement include bridges and dentures. Take a look at the benefits of dental implants over these other options:

1. End bone loss by stimulating the jawbone to keep producing bone. If there is no root in the jawbone, as in the case of dentures, the bone begins to atrophy. By inserting a dental implant you trick the bone in to thinking there is still a tooth there and it will maintain the area.
2. Boost your confidence with the knowledge that you implant will never shift or move.
3. Save your healthy teeth by only replacing those that need it.
4. End gum pain from dentures or bridges. Often the fit is less than perfect and gums can become raw and irritated.
5. Stop wasting time cleaning your dentures and bridges separately, and ditch the adhesives as well. You will care for your dental implants as you do your natural teeth.
6. Improve the look of your face with dental implants. False teeth and the bone loss associated with them eventually result in a change in face shape due to the shrinking mass of the jawbone. With dental implants the bone continues to support the muscles in your face as well as your lips and chin.

The benefits of dental implants are clear, and more information is just a phone call away. Call St. Louis Dental Implants for more info.

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