



FAQs

Will a dentist I select be able to provide all of the treatment I need?

Some general dentists choose to provide a variety of procedures, while our specialists focus on specific areas of treatment. Many times, cosmetic and restorative dentistry requires a team approach to achieve the best results. A consultation is a great way to determine your needs and plan with your cosmetic dentist how to achieve your goals. Either way, our members will work to give you the smile you want and deserve. Some of the procedures we provide include dental implants, porcelain crowns and veneers.

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What are some of the benefits of cosmetic dentistry?

Now you can get a great-looking smile, healthier teeth and gums to improve your appearance and oral hygiene.

There's a big gap between my two front teeth. Can that be changed?

Yes. Bonded veneers can close gaps and help create the smile you desire. Bonded resins generally require one office visit, while porcelain veneering takes two. Bonded veneers, along with good oral hygiene and a healthy lifestyle, are effective ways to enhance a smile. A cosmetic dentist in Costa Rica can explain the various techniques and help determine which is the best suited to your specific needs.

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My back teeth have a lot of silver and gold.
Is there a less obvious way to fill cavities?

New advances in tooth-colored porcelain and composite materials not only allow fillings to go unnoticed, but are stronger and more wear-resistant than silver and gold.

Is my new smile permanent?

With good home care and regular visits to your dentist, modern materials can last for many years and possibly decades. Like most things, excellent maintenance will extend the life of your dental restorations.

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I don't like my teeth or my smile – what can I do?

A wide variety of options are available to improve how your teeth work and the way your smile looks.

Check out our “Procedures?” section to see how other patients with similar problems were helped.

How much does it cost to get a great smile?

Like most services, cost will vary based on the time required and the difficulty of the procedures.

Generally, improving a smile will require a combination of treatment options such as whitening, reshaping gums and using bonded materials (resin or porcelain) to improve the appearance of teeth. A great way to start is having a consultation with one of our Doctors to determine the ways that you can reach your goals. Improving your smile is an investment in you.

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How many office visits will it take to fix my teeth and improve my smile?

That will vary for each person, depending on his or her needs. Sometimes, you can dramatically improve your oral health and appearance in just a couple of visits. Our team of dentists will work to make your treatment as convenient as possible, perhaps choosing slightly longer visits instead of more trips to the office. If you start today, a new smile can be yours sooner than you think.

How effective are bleaching systems?

Bleaching is effective in lightning most stains caused by age, tobacco, coffee, and tea. Based on clinical studies, 96 percent of patients with these kinds of stains experience some lightening effect. Other types of stains, such as those produced by tetracycline use or fluorosis (too much fluoride),

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respond to bleaching less reliably. If you have a tooth-color filling when your teeth are bleached, the filling will stay yellow—dental restorations do not change color when tooth whitener is applied.

How can I make my discolored teeth whiter?

Tooth whitening, the process for lightening discolored teeth, can be accomplished in the dentist's office or with dentist-supervised, at-home systems. Teeth can be whitened to the desired shade over several office visits. At-home systems should be individually fitted by a cosmetic dentist.

What is a dental implant?

A dental implant is a threaded titanium screw with a post inside it. Once the screw and post are placed, the dentist finishes the tooth with a PFM or Zirconia crown. Many people incorrectly believe that a dental

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implant makes up the entire replacement tooth; in fact, the implant replaces the root portion only. The dentist places the crown on top of the replacement root.

Why should I get a dental implant?

If a patient is missing one or several teeth, a dental implant may be suggested. Missing teeth can cause a number of problems, including difficulties chewing or eating, resulting in digestive disorders or gastrointestinal disease.

Once these patients get dental implants, they no longer have to struggle with gaps caused by missing teeth. Patients feel more confident in their smile and can attend social functions without fear of uncomfortable situations of showing missing teeth. Dental implants give patients a beautiful smile, more confidence, and the ability to resume eating solid foods without worry.

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When should you get an implant?

The implant's success depends on the strength of the bone. Make an appointment with your dentist as soon as you lose the tooth. Over time, the bone wears down and the level is reduced, leaving a weaker structure. Eventually, patients may require bone grafts before they can undergo placement of a dental implant. Avoid this painful and lengthy process by consulting your dentist as soon as possible after the tooth is lost.

Will someone notice my dental implant?

No. The dentist matches the color and shape of your other teeth to the crown on top of the implant. The only way to discover a dental implant involves an x-ray to show the metal that replaced the root of the tooth.

How long does it take to place the dental implant?

Placing a single implant may take as little as 45 minutes, while a complex surgery requiring multiple replacements can take more than 3 hours. After the implant is placed, the patient schedules a follow-up appointment 4-6 months later to allow the implant to properly heal and fuse with the bone. Then, the doctor will fit the crown over the implant.

The entire process takes around 6–8 months, unless more complex surgery is required. During the first appointment, the surgeon fuses the actual implant with the bone. Then, the surgeon covers the implant with gum tissue to allow the implant to heal properly.

If possible, the surgeon sends you home after the surgery with a temporary bridge or denture (unless performing a bone graft or other complex surgery) so that your teeth appear cosmetically intact. 4-6 months later, you return to the dentist to have the post placed into the implant. Once the post is

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placed, the dentist takes an impression to get the crown done by the dental technician. 3 -8 days later, you come in to set the crown. This may take just one

Implant rejection?

It is very uncommon that a person's body rejects an implant. The few rejections that do occur are caused by rare allergies to the titanium alloy that makes up the implant. Another reason for implant failure comes from the patient's care after surgery. Without great oral hygiene, regular teeth fail and eventually fall out due to a loss of the bone level. A dental implant is no different. Taking care of your teeth, even the implants, prevents gum problems and structure failure in the long run.

Is it painful to get a dental implant?

Most patients manage pain by taking over-the-counter medicines like Tylenol and Advil for 2–5 days after the surgery. If a patient requires bone grafts or multiple dental implants, more significant post-operative discomfort may occur. Your dentist will evaluate and prescribe any pain medications based on the extent of your surgery. The procedure is performed under local anesthesia placed in the implant surrounding area.

How long will dental implants last?

Dental implants often last a lifetime for patients that regularly brush, floss, and follow the dental recommendations made at their check-ups. While a dentist cannot guarantee the long-term success of a dental implant, the dentist can provide guidelines and suggestions to better care for your teeth. These suggestions are based on proper hygiene

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procedures, your own genetic history (including diseases that run in your family), and your nutritional habits. Following the recommendations put in place by your dentist ensures the implant has the best chance to last the rest of your lifetime.

Special care for dental implants?

Implants require the same care that your natural teeth need. Scheduling regular checkups, proper oral hygiene, and a nutritious diet are the best ways to ensure your dental implant lasts a lifetime.

Flossing every day is also critical to keep your dental implant healthy. Most tooth decay and bone loss occur because patients do not properly or regularly floss, resulting in gum disease.

Will smoking affect my dental implant?

Dental implants in smokers are four times as likely to fail when compared to implants in non-smokers.

Smoking leads to gum recession and disease, making the implant structure weaken over time.

Dentists recommend that patients with dental implants avoid smoking or chewing tobacco.

Does the surgery require time off?

Most people go back to work the day after the surgery, although it depends on your individual experience and the difficulty of the surgery. Some people prefer to take a day off to completely recover and allow their mouth to rest after the procedure. A little pain and swelling may be notice during a few days after the surgery.

Are dental implants expensive?

Dental implants require a significant investment but they are your general health is worth the price. Surgical fees often cost \$2,500–\$5,500 in the U.S. for a single tooth plus the crown. With I.D.S a dental implant cost \$1,500–\$2,500 for a single tooth with bone graft and crown included.

Ignoring the need for an implant costs much more over time. A missing tooth or prolonged use of dentures leads to bone and gum decay, while also exposing more surface area of the surrounding teeth to continuous wear and tear. Eventually, issues such as nerve exposure and bone loss cause increased discomfort for the patient. The corrective procedures done at this point are exponentially more painful and expensive for a patient. Dental implants prevent bone loss and allow patients to live a much more comfortable and healthy life.

Does insurance pay for implants and surgery?

While some carriers may at least partially cover implants, many do not provide for the surgical placement of implants. Check with your insurance provider to get a detailed look at what portions, if any, are covered in the surgical placement of dental implants. If your teeth were damaged during an accident, the implants often are covered by your medical insurance and counted as jaw reconstruction surgery.