

Definition of Common Terms Related to Dental Implants

- Bone Grafting:** The process of growing bone in deficient areas with assistance of adding bone to the desired site. The bone typically placed is a mixture of processed human or cow bone mineral and contains no cellular components that could transmit infectious diseases. Ask your doctor for further explanation if you have any concerns.
- Dental Implant:** Root replacement or anchoring device used as a restorative platform for permanent prosthetic teeth or removable dentures
- Restorative Prosthetics:** General term used to describe Abutments, Crowns, Bridges, Denture attachments, Dentures (complete or partial.)
- Dental Implant Tooth:** 2 to3-unit complex composed of "Dental Implant", "Abutment" and "Crown"
- Healing Abutment:** A device screwed into the implant during placement or after implant has integrated with the bone to allow the gums to form comfortably around the final (restorative) abutment and crown.
- Restorative Abutment:** A component attached to the dental implant. Crowns and other prostheses are cemented or screwed to the abutment.
- Crown:** Metal, Porcelain (or both) -- replacement tooth placed over the remaining root above the gum line
- Bridge:** Multiple units of splinted crowns that attach to the teeth on either side of a missing tooth.
- Denture.** Removable prosthesis composed of acrylic base and porcelain and acrylic or composite resin teeth.
- Denture attachment:** Final attachment in place of an abutment to hold the clips of a denture.
- Overdenture:** A denture that has complementary attachments to clip onto 2 or more implant attachments. (Is personally removable at any time)
- Fixed Complete Dental Prosthesis:**
A reduced volume denture with a metal substructure for durability and is screwed onto 4 or more dental implant anchors. You cannot remove it but it is removable by a dentist for implant and prosthetic maintenance.