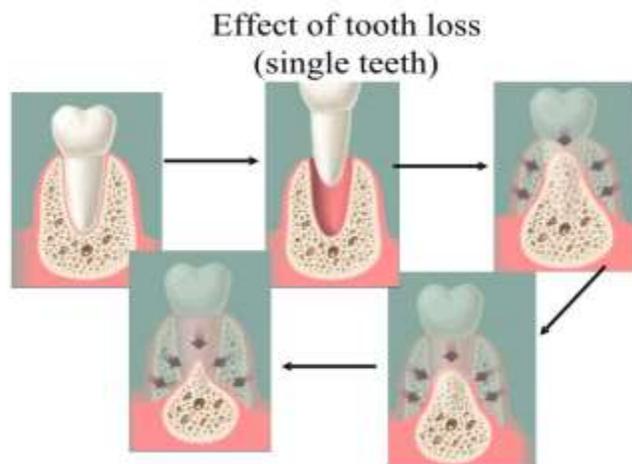


Preserving Bone After Tooth Loss

The roots of your teeth are embedded in the upper and lower jawbone, holding your teeth firmly in the mouth. Teeth can be lost for a number of reasons, including periodontal disease, which may cause bone loss and mobile teeth. When teeth become too loose, they need to be removed, leaving spaces in the bone. The problem with tooth loss is that the bone that previously held the tooth begins to "dissolve" once the tooth is removed. The loss of bone takes place from the top and outer surface of the jaw, often resulting in a dip in the area where the teeth have been extracted.

Dental researchers have worked for years to find ways to keep bone from shrinking because bone loss can cause loose dentures, which can lead to sore spots, which can lead to the need for dental adhesives. Loss of significant bone can lead to facial structure collapse and even painful dentures when the denture rests on the nerve in the lower jaw.



The Dental Implant Solution

Today, we have a well-researched solution that prevents the loss of bone and allows for highly retentive permanent restorations. This solution is known as a dental implant, an artificial tooth root, that actually replaces your tooth root in the bone. The dental implant is placed in the area where the extraction occurred and is held in place by bone just like the

roots of the original tooth. We also have bone grafting techniques to grow bone where the tooth roots have been.

One of the major benefits of having implants placed following extractions is that the placement eliminates the loss of bone. This means that most of the original bone will be maintained. In other words, placement of dental implants virtually solves the problem of bone loss!

Ask yourself, could **you** be a candidate for dental implants? Have you lost one or more teeth? Are you fed up with your partial or full denture? Is your denture in the lower jaw loose? Have you lost bone in the area of an extracted tooth? Are you considering a dental restoration with bridgework, but concerned about preserving the integrity of the adjacent teeth? If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, give us a call to come in and meet with Dr. Schwartz to discuss your options. Ask Dr. Schwartz about the benefits of dental implants whenever a tooth is lost—even if the tooth loss occurred five, ten or even twenty years ago. It is never too late to prevent further loss of bone!



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