

Dr. Zachary Hodgins:

Patients looking for dental implants, they're either having an issue with their self confidence because they are unable to smile all the way, or a functional issue such as not being able to eat whatever they want to. Some of the causes would be broken teeth, or gum disease, or accidents.

Dr. Zachary Hodgins:

Probably the biggest mixed conception about dental implants is they hurt. I can tell you that I follow up with my patients every single day after we do an implant surgery and the vast majority of them have little to no pain. If they're missing a tooth they've already gone through the worst part of that, and now the implant surgery is much easier.

Dr. Zachary Hodgins:

Everything is computer-guided, minimally invasive, and sometimes the patients don't even have any stitches or any incisions at all.

Dr. Zachary Hodgins:

Dental implants provide a nice solution because it's basically a replacement for a tooth root. Once that implant is placed and the crown is placed upon it, you can basically treat it like a normal tooth. You can floss it, you can chew on it as well, so basically providing a replacement for a missing tooth or teeth.

Dr. Zachary Hodgins:

The process of having a dental implant placed can be done in a number of different ways. The patient comes in and they don't have any teeth, then that process moves a little bit faster.

Dr. Zachary Hodgins:

So basically we would diagnose the implant case. We actually have a cone-beam CBCT here in our office, which is a three-dimensional x-ray system, so we can actually visualize the patient's jaw on a computer and then place the implant or implants in the person's jaw on a computer, in virtual reality, before we even do anything in their mouth. From there most of our surgeries are guided, so we actually make a surgical guide from that point, which allows for very accurate placement of implants. And then after that it's basically just having a patient come in for the surgery, implant placement, follow-up visit, so it can move pretty quickly from the time that we actually see them for the first time, if they're missing teeth, we can actually have implants placed within the next visit, probably a couple of weeks.