Dental Implants...
A well kept secret.

Can you tell the difference?
Neither can we.

All of us realize that dental implants, which have been used for more than 35 years, are a well kept secret. However, once a patient learns about them, they soon realize there finally is a way to improve their quality of life. Just look at the smile of Mary Gesiakowski on the next page.

Take time to review the comments of the other implant patients quoted in this brochure and learn more about how dental implants can benefit you.
Mary Gesiakowski began wearing a full lower denture at age 24. Today, she wears an implant retained fixed bridge.

“As you can see, I have no trouble smiling now, and I enjoy the confidence and convenience of dental implants.”
Improve your life
with dental implants

Chances are, whether you've lost one tooth or several, whether it's a new situation or something you've lived with for years, you've never become fully accustomed to losing such a vital part of yourself. Now you can have replacement teeth that look, feel and function like natural teeth. Advances in dental science allow your dentist to offer artificial tooth roots which fuse with the jawbone to form a secure foundation for tooth replacement.

This concept for oral rehabilitation was developed more than thirty-five years ago by a Swedish scientist and orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Per-Ingvar Brånemark. With his pioneering research, Dr. Brånemark opened the door to a lifetime of renewed comfort and self-confidence for hundreds of thousands of individuals facing the frustration and embarrassment of tooth loss. Now, it can be your doorway to renewed confidence and peace of mind.
“I’m not afraid to smile now. Having dental implants has given me a lot of confidence.”
What happens when you lose a tooth?

Affects on your...

... mouth
- Smile
- Tooth position
- Comfort

... jaw
- Bone volume
- Chewing ability
- Oral health

... face
- Esthetics
- Muscle strain
- Appearance

... life
- Eating
- Speaking
- Self-confidence

If you're missing one tooth or more, you may find there are other things you miss. You may miss your natural smile. And when was the last time you crunched into an apple or sank your teeth into a mouth-watering steak? Maybe you feel self-conscious about eating or speaking in public. Perhaps your remaining teeth are shifting, or you suffer from muscle strain and headaches. Do you miss the comfort you once experienced in familiar situations at work, home, or with friends?

Naturally, the effects of tooth loss vary from person to person and depend on what has been lost. If you've lost a crown, you have lost the visible part of your tooth. If you have lost the root as well, you have lost the unseen part of your tooth and indeed the most important part. The root anchors the tooth to your jawbone providing support for the crown. Without the root, the bone around the missing tooth will gradually recede, remaining teeth will shift, and chewing will become more difficult with time.

For those who have lost all of their teeth in an upper or lower jaw, the long-term problems are even greater. Because bone shrinks after tooth loss, nerves become exposed and dentures lack support. Loose fitting dentures compound problems and lead to sore gum tissue and additional pain.

Noriko replaced all of her teeth with implants after her daughter received a college scholarship and convinced her mother to spend the money on herself.
"I couldn't chew with dentures, but now I can eat all kinds of nuts, spare ribs, and more."
Benefits of dental implants

**Improve appearance**
Each tooth is made up of a crown and a root. The crown is visible while the unseen root anchors the crown to the jawbone, providing stable support. Many options are available for replacing a crown, but only dental implants can replace its root. If the root is not replaced, shrinkage of the jawbone occurs causing your face to appear older. Dental implants can stop this process.

**Improve comfort and speech**
Unlike implants, dentures shift inside your mouth causing mumbling, slurred speech and clicking noises. Gum irritation and pain from exposed nerves are also associated with full or partial dentures. These problems can be eliminated with implants which are anchored securely to the jawbone. Implant-supported replacement teeth look, feel and function like natural teeth, enabling you to speak with comfort and confidence.

**Eat what you want**
Typical denture patients, with excellent fitting dentures, eat at 15 to 20 percent of the efficiency of people with natural teeth. Dental implants can restore lost chewing efficiency. This allows you to once again enjoy your favorite foods without thinking twice about it.

**Smile with confidence**
With dental implants your teeth will be secure. You will no longer need to cover your mouth when you laugh or smile.

**Maintain healthy adjacent teeth**
With traditional practices, two teeth adjacent to a missing tooth must be ground down to place a bridge. Dental implants often eliminate the need to modify healthy teeth, resulting in a more conservative and esthetic restoration.

**Long term tooth replacement**
A false tooth without a root that is part of a bridge is only temporary. When a root is missing, bone continues to shrink and creates a visible defect under the false tooth. Implants preserve bone and minimize additional dental work. Most Nobel Biocare patients can expect life long replacement of their lost teeth.

**Make an investment**
Dental implant treatment may initially seem more expensive than traditional treatment. However, the cost for long-term success with dental implants is often equivalent to repetitive temporary treatment solutions. Implants are indeed a wise investment.

**Improve self esteem**
With dental implants, you can regain nearly all the capabilities you had with your natural teeth. Most implant patients experience renewed confidence. Your improved self-esteem will allow you to participate in activities you were once restricted from. You’ll be able to enjoy life.
Ellis has one single implant supported crown, and two posterior implants supporting a bridge.

"I elected to have dental implants, because I really wanted permanent, natural looking teeth."
Replacement of a single tooth
If you are missing a single tooth, you can replace it without having healthy neighboring teeth ground down to support a bridge. Nobel Biocare dental implant systems can replace both the lost crown and root of the natural tooth.

Replacement of several teeth
If you have lost several teeth, replacing them with dental implants is an excellent alternative. Your replacement teeth are not dependent on support from adjacent teeth, as is the case with bridges and partial dentures.

Replacement of full upper or lower jaw
If you have lost all of your teeth in one of your jaws, a full denture may work for the short term. But without tooth roots, the jawbone slowly melts, or shrinks, causing the denture to lose its snug fit. This can lead to potential discomfort. A gradual loss of jawbone can also change the shape of your face, and your appearance.

Dental implants, fused to the jawbone, keep the bone healthy and your teeth securely in place. Once implants have been placed in your jaw, they can be restored with fixed bridgework or overdentures. A fixed bridge is permanently secured to the implants, while removable overdentures are held in place by a bar and clip, or by one of many other attachments currently available.

Eugene was the unfortunate victim of early and complete tooth loss. To make matters worse, he couldn’t wear dentures.
“After 30 years with no teeth, I always thought that somehow, some way, I would have teeth again and it’s great!”
**Step by step treatment**

**Examination and Planning**
From examination and planning through restoration, dental implant treatment usually takes place in the dentist's office.

**Placing Dental Implants**
In an office procedure, the surgeon prepares the implant site and places the appropriate number of dental implants. In most cases, the patient is able to resume normal activities the next day.

**Bone Healing**
After the dental implants are placed, they are covered with gum tissue while the bone heals. During the next three to six months, the implants will bond with the jawbone. Temporary crowns, bridges or overdentures are optional during this bone healing period.

**Connecting the Post**
Once the dental implants have fused with the jawbone, a post may be attached to each implant. While the gum tissue is healing, temporary crowns, bridges or overdentures should be in place. Your dentist may choose to connect the post at the time of implant placement.

**Restoration**
When the gum tissue has healed, the restorative dentist takes impressions to be used in designing the final dental restoration. Placing the final restoration on the implant is the last step in the process.

Jenny wore a removable front tooth on a retainer for over a year after her auto accident. After replacing it with a single anterior implant and crown, she regained the confidence to show her beautiful smile again.
"It’s great!

People say,

‘Gosh, you

have a

great smile!’

I think,

‘If you only

knew...’"
At age 21, Kim lost her six lower front teeth in an automobile accident. An implant retained fixed bridge has enabled Kim to once again enjoy everyday life.

Results based on implants and bridges remaining in function over a five year period.

Will dental implants work for me?
Most adults are candidates for dental implants. The main limitation is the amount of available bone. Your dentist is the best person to evaluate whether dental implants are a viable solution for you.

Are implants always successful?
With more than three decades of clinical experience and over a million patients treated, crowns and bridges supported by Nobel Biocare dental implants are highly successful. Our statistics confirm a success rate of nearly 95 percent* for individual implants and even higher for the bridges they support. Dental implants placed in our first patient more than 35 years ago are still functioning today!

Will I be able to chew with the same force and pressure I use with my natural teeth?
Studies have shown that chewing efficiency improves significantly after treatment with Nobel Biocare dental implants. Following a brief adaptation period, chewing efficiency is comparable to that of natural teeth.

Will my new teeth look natural?
When Nobel Biocare dental implants are used in combination with modern restorative dentistry, their appearance, comfort and function are very likely to exceed your expectations.

Is the procedure painful?
With anesthesia, you are unlikely to experience pain during implant placement. After treatment, some levels of discomfort may be expected based on the extent of the procedure. Most patients tell us that the pain they experience is similar to that of a tooth extraction, but that the benefits far outweigh the discomfort.

Will there be any swelling after the implant procedure?
Most patients experience minimal swelling. Any swelling that does occur usually goes away one or two days after the procedure.

How will I care for my implants?
Your new teeth must be cared for and checked regularly, just like your own natural teeth. Brush and floss as recommended by your dentist or dental hygienist. See your dentist every six months or more frequently if advised.

How can I get more information?
You can learn more about dental implants by visiting our website or by contacting your dentist.
“Dental implants have changed my life! The impact is double to triple what I expected.”