



PATIENT RESOURCE GUIDE

Your Complete Guide to Dental Implants

Costs, timeline, and what to expect at every step of the process.

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FROM THE MISCH FAMILY

A Note From Our Family



We've been caring for Sarasota families for more than 25 years, and the question we hear most often is some version of this: "I've been told I need implants, but I don't really know what that means yet."

This guide was written to change that. By the time you finish reading, you'll understand how implants work, what the process looks like from start to finish, and how to think about the investment honestly. No pressure, no sales script, just the information you need to make a good decision for yourself.

We're a family practice. Dr. Craig Misch, Dr. Katherine Misch, Dr. Maggie Misch-Haring, and Dr. Harry Haring work together in the same building, around the same patients, every day. When your case is complex, your surgeon and your restorative doctor are in the same room planning it together. That's not how most practices work, and it makes a real difference in outcomes.

We're glad you're here.



The Misch Family

Misch Implant & Aesthetic Dentistry, Sarasota, FL

THE BASICS

What Are Dental Implants?

A dental implant is a small titanium post placed into the jawbone to replace a missing tooth root. Once it fuses with the bone, it acts as a stable anchor for a crown, bridge, or full arch of teeth. The result looks and functions like a natural tooth, so you can eat what you want, speak clearly, and smile without thinking about it.

Implants are not a new technology. They've been used for decades, the research behind them is extensive, and when placed correctly by a qualified specialist, they're designed to last a lifetime.

1

The Implant Post

The titanium fixture placed into the jawbone, roughly the size of a small screw. This becomes the permanent root.

2

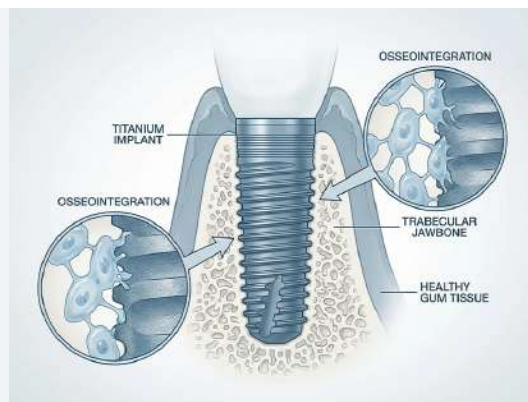
The Abutment

The connector piece that sits at or just above the gumline, linking the post to the final visible tooth.

3

The Crown

The visible part, custom-made to match your natural teeth in color, shape, and bite. May also be a bridge or arch.



ARE YOU A CANDIDATE?

Are Implants Right for You?

Most healthy adults with missing teeth are good candidates. At your first visit, your specialist will evaluate four key factors:

- **Bone Density**

Implants need adequate bone to fuse into. If bone has been lost over time, a bone graft may be needed first. This adds time to the process, but it's very routine for our team.

- **Gum Health**

Active periodontal disease needs to be addressed before implant placement. Dr. Maggie evaluates this directly, as her specialty is periodontics and implant surgery.

- **Overall Health**

Certain conditions and medications affect healing. We review your full health history at your consultation and will be straightforward about anything that could affect your outcome.

- **Jawbone Development**

Implants require a fully developed jaw and are not recommended for patients under approximately 18 years of age.

WHAT MAKES MISCH DIFFERENT

The Misch Approach

Most dental practices refer complex implant cases out, which means two sets of records, two separate treatment plans, and two different doctors who may never actually speak to each other about your case.

At Misch, your surgeon and restorative doctor are in the room together. This matters more than it might sound. A poorly planned implant placement can compromise the final restoration, so when both specialists are planning your case at the same time, problems get caught before the first appointment, not after.



Dr. Maggie Misch-Haring

Periodontics & Implant Surgery

Handles all implant placements, bone grafting, and surgical preparation. She has co-authored peer-reviewed research on bone augmentation specifically for implant therapy.



Dr. Craig, Dr. Katherine & Dr. Harry

Restorative & Prosthodontics

Design and place your final prosthetic teeth. Dr. Craig is the author of two published implant dentistry textbooks and lectures internationally on implant technique.

25 years. Same building. Same family.

Dr. Craig Misch has been doing this at this practice, with this family, for 25 years. That depth of experience is in the room with you on your first visit. If you're not a candidate for traditional implants, there are often alternatives, including implant-supported overdentures or partial solutions. We don't believe in presenting one option and stopping there.

STEP BY STEP

Your Timeline

Every case is different, but here's a realistic picture of what the process looks like for most people.

1

WEEK 1 TO 2

Consultation and Imaging

Your first visit includes a full clinical evaluation, 3D cone beam CT scan, and a conversation about your goals. You'll leave knowing whether you're a candidate, the recommended approach, and what the process will look like for your specific situation. No decisions are required at this stage.

2

WEEKS 2 TO 3

Treatment Planning

Your surgeon and restorative specialist review your imaging together and finalize the plan before any procedure is scheduled. This step is where the coordination matters most.

3

MONTHS 1 TO 6 (IF NEEDED)

Preparatory Work

If bone grafting is required, it's completed before implant placement and requires a healing period of 4 to 6 months. This phase adds time, but it's what makes a long-term result possible when the bone isn't yet ready. Not every patient needs this.

4

DAY OF SURGERY

Implant Placement

The surgery is typically completed in one appointment under local anesthesia or IV sedation. Most patients return to normal activity within a day or two, though some swelling and tenderness in the first week is normal.

5

MONTHS 3 TO 6

Healing and Osseointegration

The implant fuses with the jawbone during this phase. You'll have a temporary restoration so you're never without teeth. This is mostly waiting, with periodic check-ins to confirm the implant is integrating well.

6

MONTHS 5 TO 7

Final Restoration

Once osseointegration is confirmed, the abutment is placed and impressions are taken for your final crown or prosthetic. The last appointment is when your permanent teeth are seated and adjusted for your bite.

FOR FULL-ARCH CASES (ALL-ON-4 / ALL-ON-6)

The timeline compresses significantly. In many full-arch cases, you leave the same day as surgery with a functional provisional arch. The permanent final teeth follow after healing, typically within a few months.

AT EACH APPOINTMENT

What to Expect at Each Visit

APPOINTMENT 1

Your Consultation

Plan for about an hour. You'll meet with a specialist, have imaging taken, and go through your medical and dental history. Bring a list of any medications you take. Recent dental records or X-rays from another provider are helpful but not required.

APPOINTMENT 2

Surgery Day

You'll receive written preparation instructions beforehand. If you're having IV sedation, you'll need a driver for the day. The procedure is usually 1 to 2 hours, and most people describe post-surgical discomfort as manageable.

APPOINTMENTS 3 TO 5

Healing Visits

Typically short check-ins of 20 to 30 minutes to confirm healing is progressing normally. Most patients have 2 to 3 of these during the osseointegration phase.

FINAL APPOINTMENT

Permanent Restoration

This takes about 1 to 2 hours. Your permanent tooth is seated, adjusted for bite, and polished. This is the appointment most patients look forward to the most.



THE INVESTMENT

Understanding the Cost

We're a fee-for-service practice. We don't participate in insurance networks, and we'll always explain why that's worth understanding. When a practice is contracted with insurance companies, reimbursement rates drive treatment decisions, material choices, and scheduling. We don't operate that way.

That said, many dental insurance plans do have an out-of-network benefit that can offset part of your implant cost. Our team can help you understand what your specific plan might reimburse and will provide documentation to support any claims you submit directly.

No surprises. Ever.

We don't publish prices because implant cases genuinely vary. A single implant for a patient with ideal bone health is a very different case from a full-arch restoration following years of bone loss. At your consultation, you'll receive a detailed written treatment plan with exact costs before any commitment is made. You'll know the full number, what it includes, and what financing options are available.

CareCredit

Healthcare financing with flexible payment plans to spread the investment over time.

Alphaeon Credit

Financing designed for healthcare procedures, with multiple term options available.

QUESTIONS WE HEAR OFTEN

Frequently Asked Questions

Q How long do implants last?

When placed by a qualified specialist and maintained with regular hygiene visits, implants are designed to last a lifetime. The crown on top may need replacement after 15 to 20 years depending on wear, but the implant post itself is permanent in most cases.

Q Does it hurt?

Surgery is performed under local anesthesia, so you won't feel the procedure. Most patients are surprised by how manageable the recovery is. IV sedation is available if you'd prefer to be fully relaxed during the appointment.

Q What if I've already been told I don't have enough bone?

Bone grafting can rebuild what's been lost in most cases. Dr. Maggie has co-authored peer-reviewed research on bone augmentation specifically for implant therapy. Insufficient bone is a solvable problem far more often than patients are told.

Q Do I need to do anything special to maintain implants?

Implants are cared for like natural teeth: regular brushing, flossing, and hygiene visits twice a year. We have a hygienist on staff, Natalie Rosbury, RDH, who specializes in implant maintenance, so you'll have continuity here for the long term.

Q What if I've had a bad experience somewhere else?

We hear this often. Second opinions are welcome, and we won't charge you for the conversation. We'd rather you get accurate information and make the right choice than feel pressured into something before you're ready.



READY TO LEARN MORE?

Your Next Step

The best way to know whether implants are right for you is a one-on-one conversation with a specialist who can look at your imaging and understand your situation. We offer consultations for new patients, including second opinions.

There's no obligation, and no decision is required at the first visit.

CALL US

SCHEDULE ONLINE

(941) 957-6444 drmisch.com/request-appointment

VISIT US

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