

Zirconia: An Exceptional, Metal-free Option for Tooth Replacement

by Dr. Batool F. Rizvi

Your mouth is the gateway to the rest of your body. Ensuring optimal oral health sets you up for overall health and well being.

Our teeth were meant to last us a lifetime, but when they don't, in this day and age, we are fortunate to have the option of replacing missing or failing teeth with implants. The loss of even a single tooth, will lead to a loss of chewing ability and thus compromise one's nutritional intake. In addition to the negative effect on esthetics and self-esteem, loss of a tooth will also affect the health of the other teeth. Unreplaced teeth can cause other teeth to be tipped or crowded – or even lost, creating subsequent problems.

Traditional Dental implants were made of Titanium metal, which were used to replace the root of the missing tooth.

Z- Systems is one of the leading manufacturers of Zirconia Implants. They use the highest quality Zirconia, which undergoes a special HIP processing (Hot Isostatic Post Compaction Process). HIP processing further improves the physical properties of Zirconia. This all-ceramic material exceeds the properties of Traditional Titanium implants when compared at the level of Density, Hardness, bending strength, and elasticity. *Because of these properties, Zirconia is the chosen material in Orthopedics, Hip Joint Prosthesis, cutting instruments, and even spacecrafts.*

Traditional Implants are placed in the bone, and uncovered with a second stage surgery at a later date, for restoration with an abutment and crown. Zirconia Implants and its crown abutment are a one-piece entity, similar to a natural tooth, and therefore no second stage surgery is required. This reduces patient discomfort and appointment time. This all-ceramic material is also extremely biocompatible, and ideal for any one with Allergies to metal. ♦

They also act as the anchor for replacement of single crowns or bridges. **Zirconia Dental Implants** are a metal-free option for replacing teeth. Zirconia Implants have successfully been placed in Europe for decades, and are now FDA approved in the U.S.

Zirconia is an exceptional and unique natural, bio inert material. It loves the bone and gingiva, enabling excellent osteointegration (the process of bone growing to the implant) at a phenomenal rate. Gingiva flourishes around the implant like ivy on a wall (the same way it does around a natural tooth). This is very important for a natural appearing restoration. A unique property of Zirconia, as opposed to Metal-Titanium implants, is that zirconia actually deters plaque binding to itself. This is why the gum tissue always looks pink and healthy next to it. This leads to excellent periodontal health, and a decrease in implant failure over the long run. Because of its white color, Zirconia implants do not display the ugly "tattoo effect", which may occur in metal implants due to gingival transparency.

Dr. Batool F. Rizvi is a graduate of New York University College of Dentistry. She completed her General Practice Residency from Kings County Medical Center, and Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center. Subsequently, Dr. Rizvi completed an Oral Maxillofacial Surgery fellowship from Montifore Medical center, and an Implantology Fellowship from Columbia University. Dr. Rizvi stays up-to-date in the latest advancements in Dentistry and Oral Implantology by regularly participating in continuing education.

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