

# Bone Resorption

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## **Bone Loss Results From Tooth Loss**

Natural tooth roots are embedded in the jawbone, providing a stable foundation that allows the teeth to function properly. When teeth are lost or removed, the bone that previously supported those teeth begins to deteriorate, or resorb.

## **Dental Implants Preserve Bone**

Dental implants are substitute tooth roots, providing the same function as natural tooth roots, including stimulating the bone, thereby preserving it – and preventing the bone resorption (deterioration) that would normally occur with tooth loss. The jawbone actually forms a bond with the dental implants, creating a stable foundation for replacement teeth that look, feel and function like natural teeth.

## **Anterior Tooth Loss and Bone Resorption**

When a tooth is lost or removed in the front of the mouth, where the bone is very thin, the bone will usually melt away rather quickly, giving the appearance that the bone and gums are caving in, or collapsing. Very often, this defect is visible when smiling. If a front tooth is replaced with a tooth supported bridge, eventually the replacement tooth looks like a false tooth as the gums and bone above the bridge begin to collapse, leaving the false tooth suspended without support.