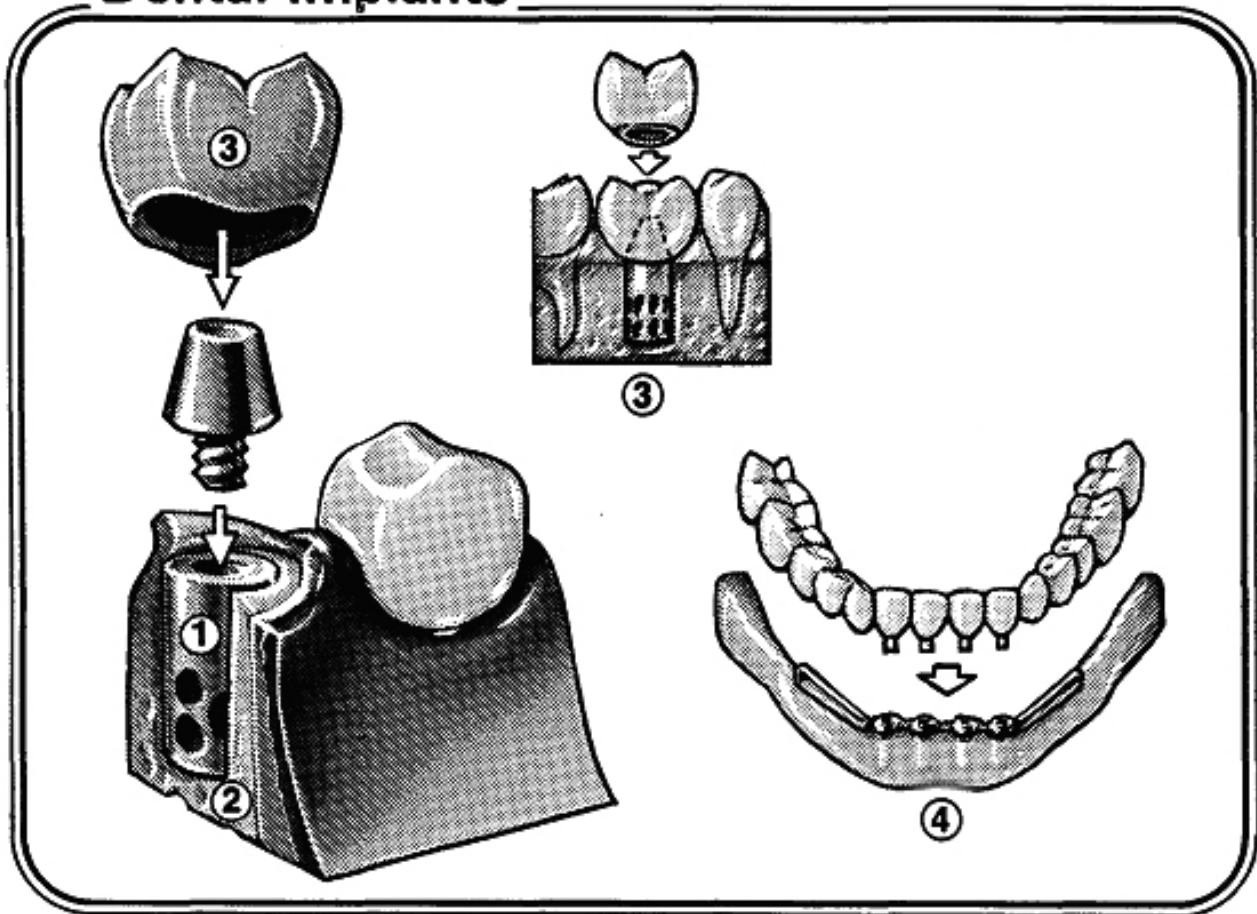


# DENTAL IMPLANTS

## TO YOUR HEALTH - PATIENT EDUCATION HANDOUT

# D5

### Dental Implants



Dental implants are a new development in the field of dentistry. They provide fixed replacements for missing teeth. Dental implants solve many of the problems associated with removable dentures. Implants help a person gain self confidence by knowing that they are fixed in place. Fixed implants help to eliminate the gag reflex (a choking feeling associated with some dentures). They make food taste better and speech easier. Implants result in less tissue irritation in the mouth.

The procedure begins with the insertion of an implant (1) into the bone (2) of the upper or lower jaw. The implant is allowed to fuse to the bone for several months. This process is called "osseointegration". The patient's old removable denture is modified for use during the waiting period. The top of the implant is exposed after the waiting period. A single tooth (3), or full denture (4) can then be made to fit onto the implant(s). The number and type of implants and the method of implantation can vary with each individual case.

**SIU** SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
CARBONDALE **STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES**

[shc.siu.edu](http://shc.siu.edu)

**618-536-2421**