

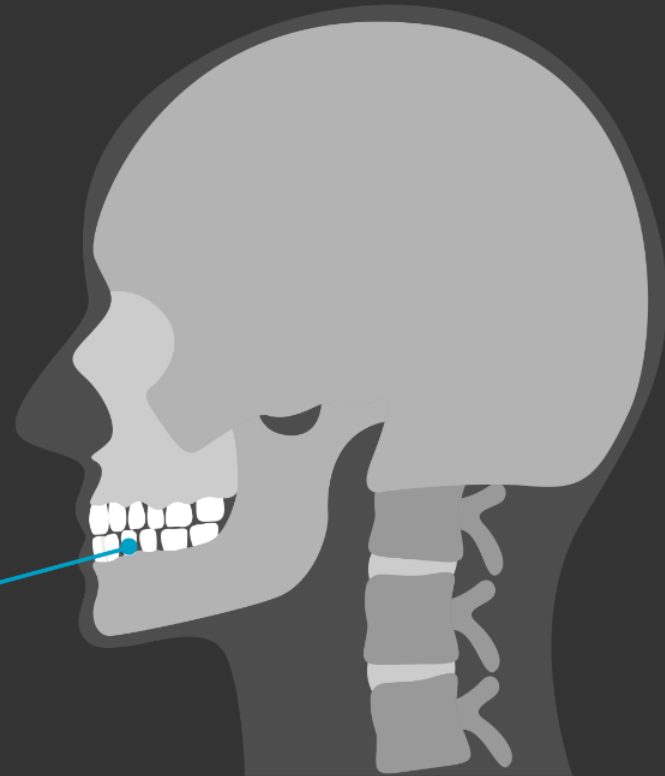
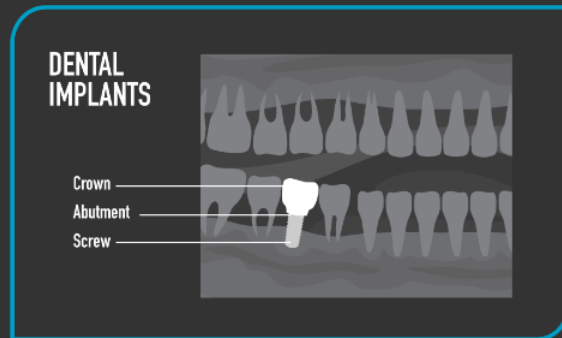
# Metals in medical implants

HOME READING ASSIGNMENT

# METALS IN MEDICAL IMPLANTS: DENTAL

## Dental Implants

are permanent fixtures placed in the jawbone to provide a stable base for an oral prosthesis such as a crown, bridge, denture, or even a broader facial prosthesis. The commodities listed are preferred due to resistance to corrosion, the unlikelihood of them causing a negative reaction from the body, their ability to be molded into shape to fit the jaw, and their strength.



**Co** (alloys w Cr, Mo):  
denture frameworks

**Au** (alloys w Cu, Pt, Zn, Ag):  
dental prostheses, crowns, bridges

**Fe** (stainless steel):  
dental crowns, surgical tools

**Ni** (alloys w Ti):  
dental braces, drills

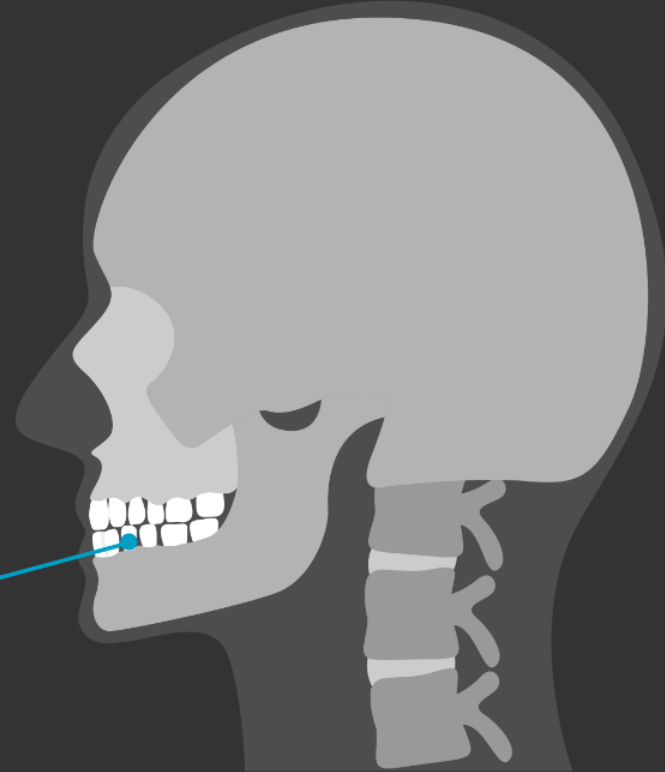
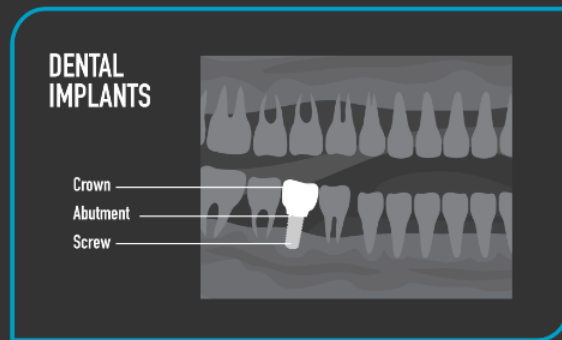
**Ta**: coat of carbon foam scaffold in  
biocompatible bone implants

**Ag** (alloys w Cu, Sn, Zn):  
dental fillings

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### Ti:

mech properties similar to bone,  
promotes osseointegration

### Zr:

major constituent in ceramics for dental  
applications, wear resistant, inert, mech  
prop suited for dental crowns

# METALS IN MEDICAL IMPLANTS: SENSORY & NEURO

## Sensory and Neurological Implants

are implantable devices that communicate with the nervous system to either record electrical nerve activity or to electrically stimulate nerve cells that would improve senses that are not functioning properly. Examples include:

### Cochlear Implants

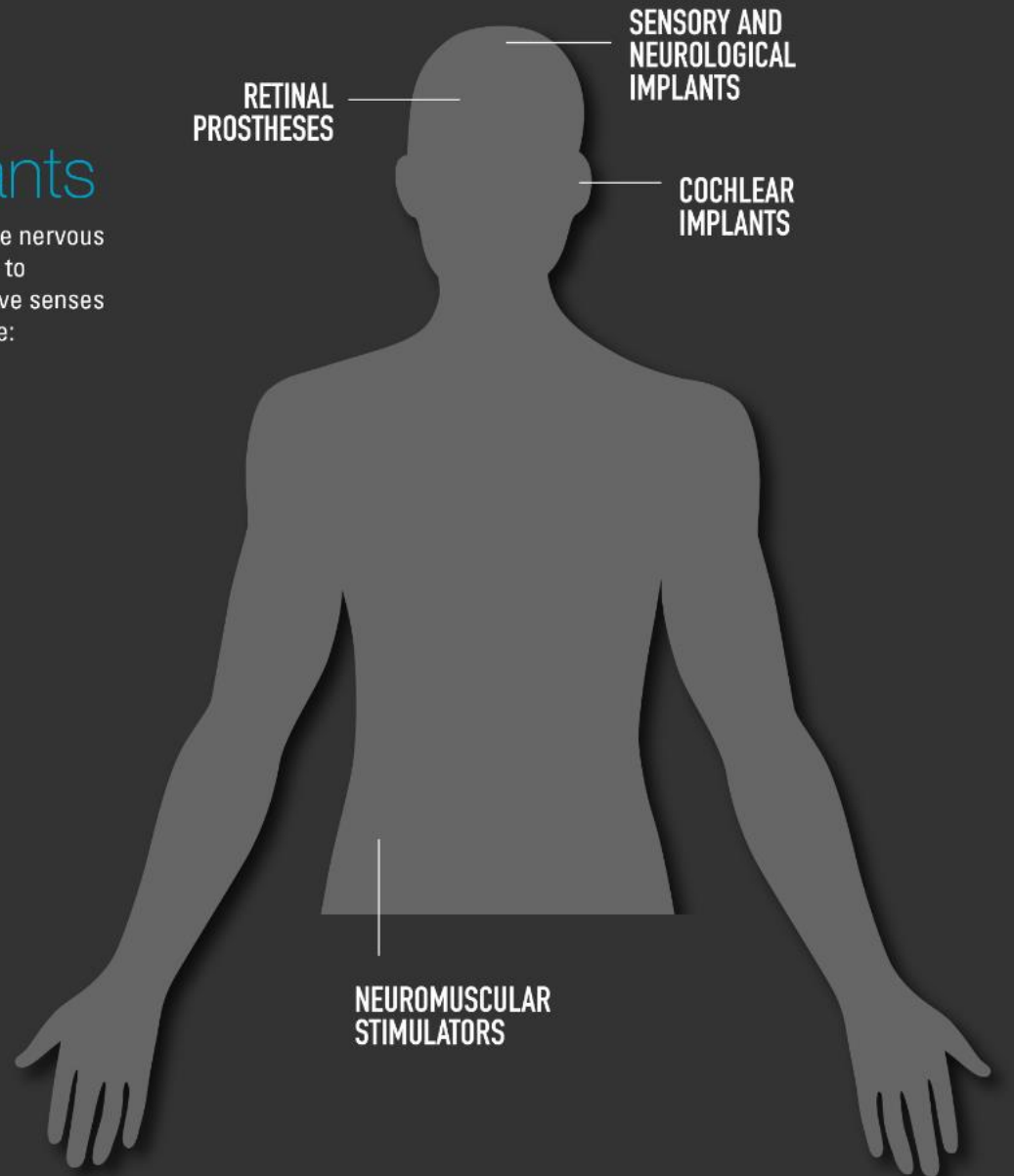
are designed to transmit sounds of speech into the brain, allowing the person to hear.

### Retinal Prostheses

are fitted with sensors that trigger an electronic pulse. This pulse then stimulates nerves in the retina, which pass signals down the optic nerve to the brain to create an image.

### Electrical Stimulators or Functional Neuromuscular Stimulation

are devices that deliver electrical impulses to nerves in the brain, treating disorders as deafness, incontinence, chronic pain, depression, and Parkinson's disease, among others.

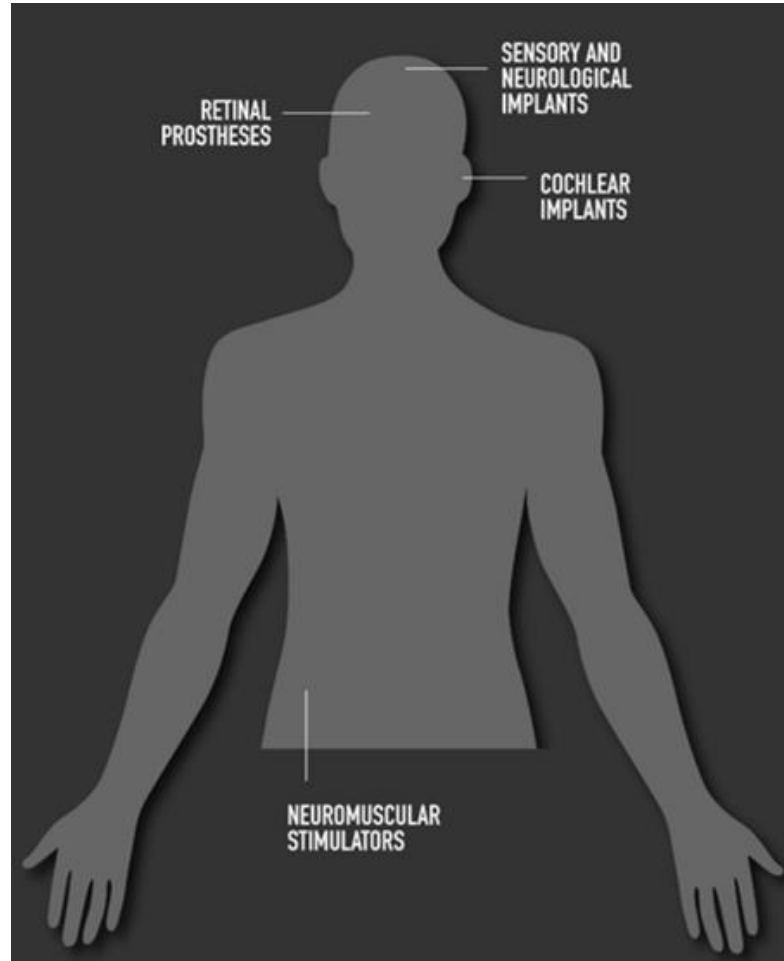


# METALS IN MEDICAL IMPLANTS: SENSORY & NEURO

**Au** electrodes:  
**bioelectronics**, brain-machine interfaces, cochlear implants, glucose biosensors

**Ir** (oxide): coating for Au, Cu, Ti wires for functional stimulation electrodes

**Pt**:  
one of best electrode materials, neuromodulation devices, guidewires, stents, coils, catheters



**Ag**:  
coating agent, anti-inflammatory, infection suppressant properties

**Li** (Li-I):  
lithium iodide batteries suitable for implantable devices (long lifespan, stable voltage, reliable performance), also small and lightweight batteries

**Ti**: electrodes, non-toxic exterior of medical implants

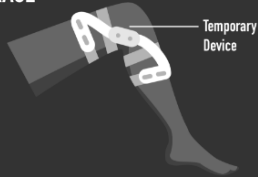
# METALS IN MEDICAL IMPLANTS: ORTHOPEDIC

## Orthopedic Implants

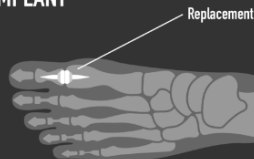
are used to relieve issues with the bones and joints in the body. They can be either permanent joint replacements or temporary implant devices.

Permanent orthopedic implants are expected to stay in the body for a long time. They can be implanted into joints like hips, knees, ankles, shoulders, elbows, and wrists. Temporary orthopedic implants, meanwhile, are small devices needed to fix fractured bones and are expected to serve for a short period of time until the bones heal. These include plates, screws, pins, wires, and nails.

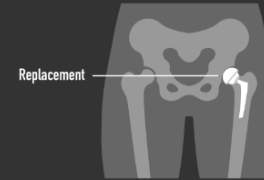
### KNEE BRACE



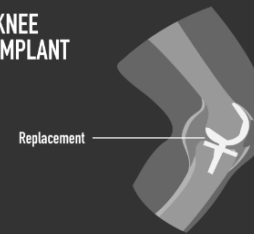
### METATARSAL IMPLANT



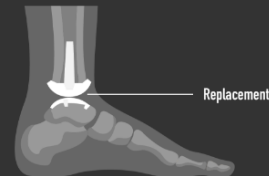
### HIP IMPANT



### KNEE IMPLANT



### ANKLE IMPLANT



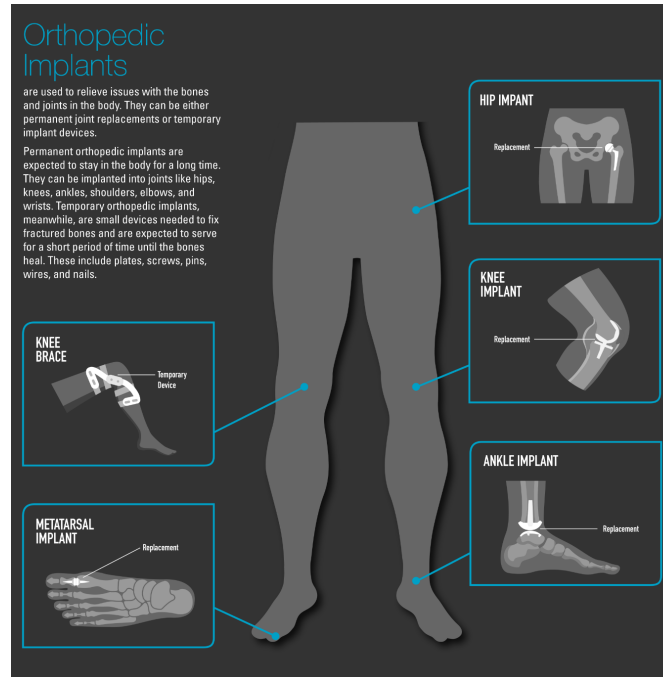
# METALS IN MEDICAL IMPLANTS: ORTHOPEDIC

**Al** (alloys): major element for alloying w Ti for orthopedic appl; ceramics (Al oxides)

**Fe** (stainless steel): major component stainless steel, fracture fixing plates, bone screws

**Cr** (Co-Cr-Mo alloys): **corrosion resistant** alloys; Mo impart hardness

**Co**: orthopedic prostheses for knee, shoulder, hip, fracture-fixing devices



**Mg** (and alloys): **degradable** metal implants: bone screws, plates; alloyed w Zn, Al to control degradation rate

**Zr** (and oxides): hard, **resistant to wear**, biocompatible; ceramics in joint replacement

**Ni** (in Ni-Ti alloys): spinal fixation, compression screws, plates, limb-lengthening devices

**Ni** (in stainless steels): improve **pitting corrosion resistance** in orthopedic implants

**Ti** (alloys): improve mech prop, e.g. w Al, V; ability to physically bond w bone

# METALS IN MEDICAL IMPLANTS: CARDIOVASCULAR

## Cardiovascular Implants

are used in cases where the heart, its valves, and the rest of the circulatory systems are in disorder. These include artificial hearts, artificial heart valves, cardiac pacemakers, implantable cardioverter-defibrillators, and coronary stents.

**Cr** (and alloys):  
used in heart valves <sup>29</sup>

**Co** (and alloys):  
defibrillators; Co-Cr  
stainless steels used in  
catheters and stents <sup>30,31</sup>

**Ni (Ni-Ti alloys)**: cardiac  
implantable devices <sup>36,37,38</sup>

**Ti** (and alloys):  
pacemaker encapsulation  
<sup>45,46</sup>

**Au**: good electrical cond,  
used on electronic  
circuits, interfaces,  
implantable pacemakers,  
defibrillators <sup>32</sup>

**Fe** (steels):  
guidewires, catheters,  
endovascular grafts <sup>33</sup>

**Ta**: **radio-opacity**, used as  
radiomarker on stents and  
endovascular grafts <sup>42, 43, 44</sup>

**Mg**:  
degradable metallic stents,  
alloyed with Al etc to  
control rate of degradation  
<sup>35</sup>

**Pt**:  
corrosion resistance, used  
as lead tips for pacemakers.  
radiomarkers on stents,  
catheters, guidewires:  
improve visibility during  
cardiovascular procedures  
(balloon angioplasty or  
stenting). <sup>39,40,41</sup>

**Li (Li-I)**:  
lithium-iodide batteries  
suitable for implantable  
peacemakers <sup>34</sup>



**Table 1.1** Biomedical metals and alloys and their primary use in the medical field.<sup>4</sup>

Type	Primary use	FDA Class
<i>Routinely applied materials</i>		
Stainless steels	Temporary fracture plates, screws, hip nails, etc.	II
	Total hip replacements	II
Co-based alloys	Total joint replacement	II
	Dentistry castings	II
Ti-based alloys	Stem and cup of total hip replacements with CoCrMo or ceramic femoral heads	II
	Other permanent devices (nails, pacemakers)	III
<i>Emerging FDA approved materials</i>		
NiTi	Orthodontic dental archwires	I
	Vascular stents	III
	Vena cava filter	II
	Intracranial aneurysm clips	II
	Catheter guide wires	II
	Orthopaedic staples	I
Ta	Wire sutures for plastic surgery and neurosurgery	III
	Radiographic markers for diagnostic applications	II
<i>Materials in clinical trials and research</i>		
NiTi	Contractile artificial muscles for an artificial heart	III
Mg	Biodegradable orthopaedic implants	III

O. Bazaka, K. Bazaka, P. Kingshott, R. J. Crawford and E. P. Ivanova, Chapter 1: Metallic Implants for Biomedical Applications, in *The Chemistry of Inorganic Biomaterials*, 2021, pp. 1-98 DOI: [10.1039/9781788019828-00001](https://doi.org/10.1039/9781788019828-00001)