



Artificial bone developed to replace teeth

BRISBANE — If all you wanted for Christmas was your two front teeth, new research could help make your wish come true more easily.

Griffith University scientists are developing artificial bone to help replace missing teeth, which will make getting dental implants a less painful procedure.

A four-year study is being undertaken by PhD candidate and periodontist Jamil Alayan at the university's school of dentistry and oral health.

Dr Alayan and his team are using the latest tissue engineering technology to produce synthetic bone scaffolds that can be grafted into a patient's jawbone.

These will provide a foundation in which to place titanium dental implants.

Dr Alayan said the operation usually uses bone derived from a patient's jaw, but it involves significant pain, nerve damage and post-operative swelling.