



Artificial bone with bite

IF ALL you wanted for Christmas was your two front teeth, new research could help make your wish come true more easily.

Scientists are developing artificial bone to help replace missing teeth, which will make getting dental implants less painful.

A four-year study at Brisbane's Griffith University is being done by PhD candidate and periodontist Dr Jamil Alayan at the 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.

"The big benefit for the patient is that the risks of complications using this method will be significantly lower because bone doesn't need to be removed from elsewhere in the body," Dr Alayan said.