



DENTAL IMPANTS

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DON'T LET MISSING TEETH LIMIT YOUR LIFE

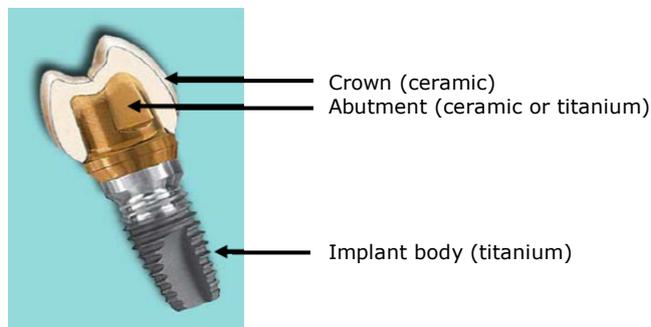
If you are missing any of your natural teeth, implant dentistry can provide you with teeth that look and feel like your very own. Permanent replacement teeth can be yours without the embarrassment of loose dentures or having to cut into other healthy teeth in your mouth. An attractive cosmetic smile is possible. Implants will enable you to enjoy the simple pleasures of unrestricted eating. With dental implants you can have the confidence to pursue an active business and social life. Many people choose implants to preserve their facial bones as conventional dentures can lead to accelerated bone loss.

WHAT ARE IMPLANTS?

Dental implants are titanium posts with specially activated surfaces. They are implanted in your jawbone to function in a similar way to a natural tooth root. Your bone grows onto the implants in a process called *osseointegration*. After a few months they will form a permanent part of your body. Dental implants do not feel any different from natural teeth. They give you security in every situation.

Present day implants are based on scientific evidence and have shown a success rate of more than 95%. All surgeons agree that implants are one of the most predictable forms of dental treatment, and in most cases it is a life-long solution.

IMPLANT COMPONENTS



WHAT CAN IMPLANTS DO?

Close single tooth gaps

A missing tooth can be replaced by an implant without having to grind neighbouring teeth. Implants can help protect healthy, neighbouring teeth.

Complete the dental arch

Several teeth can also be replaced by implants, for instance, with a bridge that is anchored to several dental implants. In this way, gaps of two or more teeth can be closed.

Anchor dentures

Implants can also act as anchors for dentures. They form the foundation for the attachment elements on which the denture is anchored. The denture can easily be removed for cleaning. The secure fit of the denture on the implants prevents painful pressure points and injuries on the gum.

THE ADVANTAGES

- Dental implants look the most natural.
- They form a stable foundation for tooth replacement.
- Dental implants make it unnecessary to grind neighbouring teeth.
- They give dentures a secure hold.
- Dental implants can prevent bone loss.

MIGHT I BE SUITABLE?

X-rays will be needed to see if you have sufficient quality and quantity of bone. Diseases such as uncontrolled diabetes or leukaemia can affect the bone growing onto the implant and will need careful assessment. In general, most people are suitable candidates for implants.

DOES IT HURT?

A small operation will be necessary. It is sometimes possible for the implant procedure to be done in the surgeon's rooms. In some cases, a general anaesthetic is preferable, and this will require a visit to a day clinic or hospital. Some patients do experience one or two days of discomfort after the operation, usually related to the stitches.

IS THE TREATMENT EXPENSIVE?

An accurate estimate of cost can be obtained from your dentist or dental specialist. This is often given in the form of a quotation. Most medical schemes look favourably upon implant treatment as they know it is predictably successful and permanent. Studies have shown that implants are cost effective when compared with alternative treatment plans. The components chosen will depend on the type of treatment needed. In addition to component costs, there will be professional fees and there might be hospitalisation and medicine costs. In general, implant treatment is not much more expensive than the alternatives such as bridges or new dentures at recurring shorter intervals. The big difference lies with long term success. Your implants can be with you for the rest of your life.

SHOULD I WAIT UNTIL I'M OLDER?

The youngest patients receiving implants are in their early teens, the oldest in their 90's. What often happens where there are missing teeth is that the jawbone begins to sink. This is common with denture wearers, and the ridge, which is important for holding the denture, gradually disappears, making the denture more and more problematic. Dental implants restore normal loading of the bone and thereby hindering the further loss of bone. The sooner you decide to have the implants placed, the less permanent bone will be lost and the easier it will be for the dentist to achieve a good result.

HOW IS THE TREATMENT OBTAINED?

Implant treatment is a technical and complex form of dentistry. Not all dentists are trained to provide implant treatment. For this reason, your dentist might refer you to a specialist for part of, or all of, the implant treatment procedure. The surgery, placing the implant, is most often done by a maxillofacial and oral surgeon. The design and construction of the artificial teeth is done by a dentist or prosthodontist working in conjunction with a dental technician. Your dentist will be able to provide you with more information on dental implant options available to you.





Fig. 1
The implant is placed in the bone. Temporary teeth are worn.



Fig. 2
After integration the implant is exposed, and an impression is taken.
Temporary teeth can still be worn.

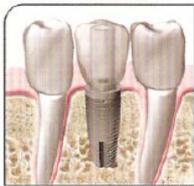


Fig. 3
After a further week or two, the final teeth are attached.

