



Dental Implants

What is a Dental Implant?

A dental implant is an artificial tooth root (titanium screw) that is placed into your jaw to support one or more false teeth. Dental implants may be an option for people who have lost a tooth or teeth due to various reasons including injury, or some other reason.

Types of Dental Implants

- **Endosteal** (in the bone): This is the most commonly used type of implant. The various types include screws, cylinders or blades surgically placed into the jawbone. Each implant holds one or more false teeth. This type of implant is generally used as an alternative for patients with bridges or removable dentures.
- **Subperiosteal** (on the bone): These are placed on top of the jaw with the metal framework's posts protruding through the gum to hold the prosthesis. These types of implants are used for patients who are unable to wear conventional dentures and who have minimal bone height.



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Are you a candidate for Dental Implants?

The ideal candidate for a dental implant is in good general and oral health. Adequate bone in your jaw is needed to support the implant, and the best candidates have healthy gum tissues that are free of periodontal disease. If there is not enough bone support, or if it is not healthy enough, it may not be possible to place a dental implant without grafting bone into the area first.

If I had gum disease when I had my own teeth, will I get it with the Dental Implants?

Yes, if you do not care for your dental implants well enough.

If you keep them clean and have them regularly checked by your dental team, you should not have any problems.

Smoking affects the health of Dental Implants, so if you are a smoker you may need to look after the implants more carefully. Smoking is toxic to the gingivae (gum) and hence will have a huge impact on the survival of dental implants. So much so that smoking is often seen as a contra indication.

What is a Dental Implant procedure like?

Placing an implant is usually done using a local anaesthetic. You should not feel any pain at the time but, similar to having an extraction, you may feel some discomfort during the week after the surgery.

After your implants have been placed, the bone in your jaw needs to heal and integrate the implant which usually takes a few months. Occasionally dental implants may be stable enough when they are placed for the false teeth to be fitted sooner, even immediately.

If you are having multiple teeth replaced you may have a temporary denture in the meantime. If you already have existing dentures, you may be able to keep wearing these while your implants are healing. Your existing dentures will to be changed to fit properly after the surgery, and a 'healing cap' will usually be placed onto the implant to protect it.

What can I expect after receiving a Dental Implant?

As you know, your own teeth require conscientious at-home oral care and regular dental visits. Dental



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implants are like your own teeth and will require the same care. In order to keep your implant clean and plaque-free, brushing and flossing still apply!

Cleaning around the teeth attached to the implants should not be any more difficult than cleaning natural teeth. However, there may be difficult to reach areas and you will be shown how to clean these properly. You may need to visit the hygienist more often, but your dentist will be able to talk to you about this.

Finding out more is easy...

To find out more, or to book in for a consultation, simply give us a call on the number below or email us:



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