



Dental Implants

If you are missing any of your natural teeth, implants 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 smile is possible. Implants will enable you to enjoy the simple pleasures of unrestricted eating. With implants you can have the confidence to pursue an active business and social life.

As shown in this illustration, a Titanium post with specially activated surfaces is inserted into the jawbone to function in a similar way to a natural tooth root. Your bone grows onto them in a process called *Osseointegration*. After a few months they will form a permanent part of your body. The crown is then attached to the implant.

Diagnostic tests

We will need to perform diagnostic tests to confirm that you are suitable for the procedure, and to help plan the best treatment approach. These tests include: Thorough dental Examination, Photographs, X-rays (OPG), CT scans of your jaw bone, and Dental casts of your mouth.

Advantages of Dental Implants

- Implants prevent bone loss in the jaw (this may reduce the risk of adjacent teeth becoming loose). Bone loss may occur in patients due to gum & bone disease, & wearing dentures.



← Gradual loss of bone in jaw →

- Prevents the formation of hollowed or collapsed cheeks that can occur after tooth extraction. (Missing teeth also cause bone loss in the jaw)
- Unlike bridges, implants don't need the cutting of neighbouring virgin teeth
- Implants are a fixed device, unlike dentures.
- Like natural teeth, Implants are simple to maintain & are extremely comfortable



Implants and Oral Health

A dental Implant is designed to last. Based on scientific evidence implants have shown a success rate of 95% - 98%. Many dentists now agree that Implants are one of the most predictable forms of dental treatment. **BUT**, poor oral hygiene can shorten its lifespan. Good oral hygiene is crucial. This means regular professional maintenance every 6 months. Like real teeth, implants that are not regularly brushed and flossed can develop deposits (plaque & calculus) that eventually lead to dental problems, such as bleeding gums, loss of bone, gum and bone disease, infection and pain. Properly maintained implants that are anchored by sufficient bone can last for many years, although repairs may be expected like any other dental appliance.

Does it hurt?

A small operation will be necessary. If you are apprehensive about this treatment we have IV sedation available for your comfort. The Implant placement and sedation is all done within our practice.

Is the treatment expensive?

In general, implant treatment is not very much more expensive than the alternatives (bridges or dentures). The cost of this procedure may differ if you need bone augmentation (bone graft) if there is insufficient bone available. 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. Dental implants restore normal loading of the bone & thereby hinder this further loss of bone. The sooner you decide to have the implant placed, the less permanent bone you will lose and the easier it is for the dentist to achieve a good result.