

Frequently Asked Questions

How do implants bond with bone?

Implants bond with bone by a process known as osseointegration. When first placed, microscopic spaces remain between the implant surface and bone. Over a period of 2 to 6 months, bone gradually grows over the implant surface until no space remains and the implant becomes integrated with the jaw bone.

Am I a candidate for implants?

Any patient who is healthy and has good oral hygiene can have dental implants. The potential implant site must have sufficient bone volume and gum thickness to allow placement of an implant.

What are the chances of rejection of implants?

Implants fail because the bone has not integrated sufficiently with the implant surface. This may occur if the bone is very soft at the implant site; or inadvertent loading of the implant at the early stages of healing or infection. Surgical replacement of a failed implant is generally successful.

How long does treatment take?

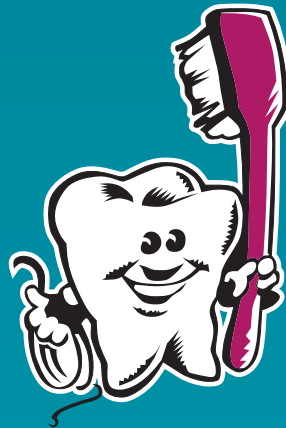
A healing period of between 3 to 6 months is required before the artificial tooth can be attached to the implant. A temporary appliance can be worn during this period.

Can smoking affect the success of implants?

Smoking is one of the biggest risk factors in failure of dental implants. Studies show the chances of failure increase 2 to 3 times as smoking affects the healing of bone and soft tissue, by reducing blood supply.

What kind of follow up is required?

After completion of the treatment, regular checkups are needed every 6 months, the implants are examined to ensure that the supporting gum and bone remains healthy, X-rays may also be taken.



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Implants



*Patient Information
Brochure*

Implants ... a means of replacing missing teeth

What is an Implant

Dental implants have caused a revolutionary change in dentistry.

A dental implant is a small titanium fixture that is surgically inserted into the jaw bone, serving as a replacement for the roots of teeth that have been lost due to injury, disease or decay. They make an attractive alternative to dentures and bridges.

On top of the implant an abutment and ceramic crown is fabricated and cemented permanently. Implant retained ceramic crowns are almost impossible to distinguish from natural teeth.

Implants are strong, stable and secure so you can eat quite normally after treatment is complete. They provide an aesthetically pleasing result, blending with the adjacent teeth. By continuing good diet and dental hygiene, it is easy to keep the gum and teeth healthy.

What is Involved

There are several steps involved in placing an implant. Firstly you will be referred to see an Implant Specialist to have the jaw bone density assessed through scans and x-rays. The specialist will then perform surgery to insert the dental implant into the jaw. This is usually quick and easy and almost no discomfort is experienced.

Following a three month healing phase where the implant integrates with the jaw bone, the Implant Specialist will perform a second surgical procedure and expose the top of the implant.

You will then be referred back to your dentist to have the ceramic crown and abutment fabricated, which will attach to the top of the implant.

This takes several appointments and involves taking impressions; removing the healing cap, taking x-rays, and shade selection.

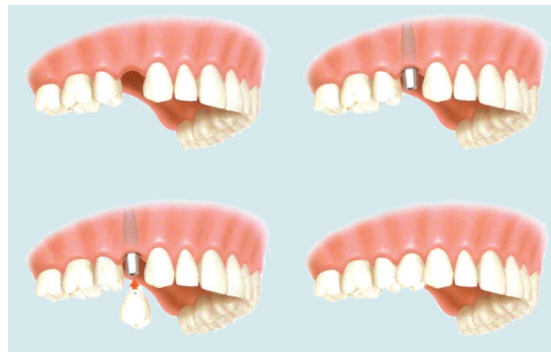
The crown takes several weeks to fabricate and at the final appointment the crown is fixed with a micro screw to the thread inside the implant.

Types of Implants

There are several types of dental implants:

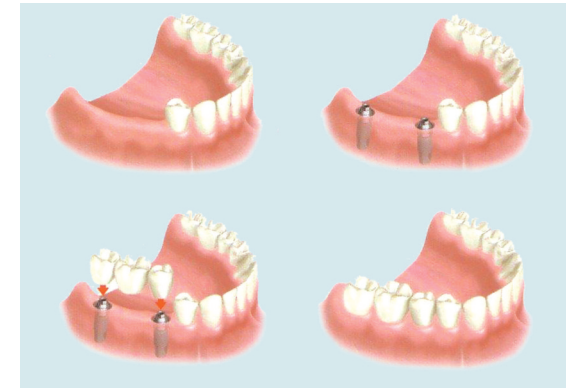
Single Tooth Implants

—used to replace a single missing tooth.



Fixed Bridge Implants

—used to replace several missing teeth with all the teeth contained in one unit.



Implant Retained Denture

—used to stabilise a conventional denture by anchoring it to several implants in the jaw.



Care and Maintenance

With long term studies over more than three decades and over a million patients treated, implants are highly successful — with a 95% success rate. With good oral hygiene and regular check-ups this will help ensure a long lasting solution.