

What are implants?

Implants are titanium screws that are placed in your jaw bone (in place of your missing tooth). Once an implant has been placed and has integrated successfully, a crown or bridge can be fitted to act as your normal tooth.

You can also use implants to stabilise dentures and help keep them in place.

Implants are a great way to replace missing teeth. However, they can only be placed if there is enough bone. When we lose teeth, the bone around gradually disappears. This doesn't mean you won't be able to have implants placed, it means you may need to have bone grafting before the placement of the implant screw.

Success of treatment

Success depends on your body's reaction to implants and your personal care of them. Implants can fail due to gum disease, just as teeth do.

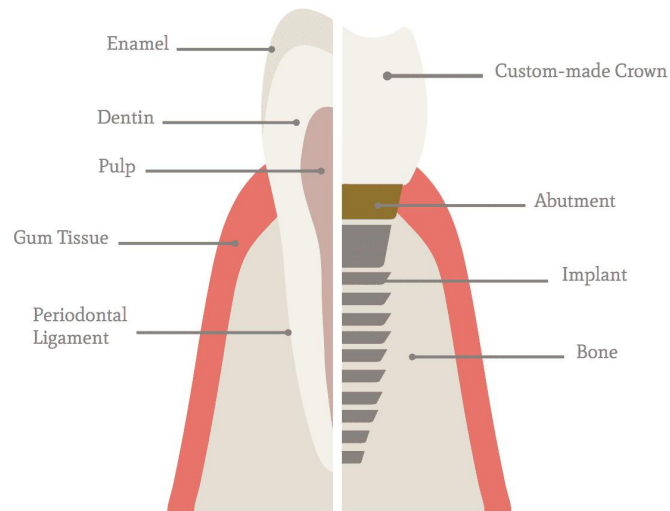
Success is constantly improving due to improved techniques. Natural teeth last longer today as awareness of the need of looking after them is more accepted.

"Success rates for implants now compare very favourably with all other forms of dentistry"

Smoking and alcohol

Both smoking and heavy alcohol consumption reduce the longevity of implants and teeth. If you think that either of these 2 habits could be a problem for you and your implants, it may be advisable to avoid this form of treatment.

For more questions and answers,
please go to
www.dentalhealth.org/dental-implants



Any enquiries or to make an
appointment, please call our reception
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01935 817 950

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Implant Information Leaflet

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What is it like after having implants placed?

The after-effects of having implants placed are usually mild and may include slight bruising, dull aches and swelling, the amount of which will vary dependent upon the number of implants placed and the difficulty of the surgical procedures.

When choosing a date for implant placement, avoid significant social engagements and work commitments for at least a week after. This is just to be on the safe side; taking time off work is not usually necessary.

Medication may be prescribed to help with healing and discomfort.

Procedures before, during and after implant placement

It is a natural phenomenon that after teeth have been removed the bone that once supported them slowly resorbs away. This occurs faster when prolonged gum problems have been present or poorly fitting dentures are worn. The result is that there is sometimes not enough bone to support implants. When this is the case, it may be necessary to create new bone to fill in missing areas, allowing an implant to be placed. A variety of techniques are available to do this and these are referred to as 'bone grafting'

Despite the thorough planning, extra procedures are sometimes required during treatment. It is important that in this event, you accept that appropriate alternative treatment is performed at the time of the treatment although it may be different to the initial plan.

Follow up appointments and aftercare

Regular maintenance check ups are essential to assess the way you bite and your bone levels; problems are easily treated if caught early. Implants are not a 'fit and forget' treatment. It is also highly important that a hygienist continues to see you every 3 months for the first year after the placement of your implant and then at appropriate recall intervals.

How long will treatment take to complete?

Everyone is different and is dependent on the complexity of the treatment. Initially there is a treatment planning stage which may last a month or so. This may be followed by time spent on such preparatory procedures, such as, improving gum health, removing un-saveable teeth and stabilising bone. This may take anything from a few weeks to a few months.

After implants are placed, they are left to intergrate for 3-6 months. The final fitting of the crown, bridge or denture can take a month or two, depending on each case.



Do not rush your treatment

It is important that neither yourself or the provider rush your treatment or try to advance the various stages faster than the time required for complete healing and maturation of the bone and soft tissues. Even treatment that is well planned and executed can fail as a result of moving too quickly from stage to stage. If you do not have the time available, then it may be more sensible to consider conventional forms of dentistry, which can be performed more rapidly.

Your implant provider may suggest that procedures to stabilise bone are undertaken separately from placing the implants, even though under certain conditions it is possible to combine these stages.

Examples of problems that may arise

Porcelain crowns attached to implants can break, as they can when attached to natural teeth. However, removal of crowns from implants for repair is usually easier than from natural teeth. Implant supported bridges that become loose should be re-tightened immediately to reduce the likelihood of further damage. Should it be discovered by a routine maintenance visit that your implant has failed or is failing, appropriate remedial action will be planned accordingly. Implants that become loose will not re-tighten and should ultimately be removed.