

DENTAL IMPLANTS

Notes for guidance

When we're babies, we expect to lose our teeth so that our new ones can grow in. But what do we do when we lose our teeth later in life? There are many possible ways to lose your teeth, including accidents and gum disease, but false teeth used to be the only option available to correct the problem. Thankfully, another solution exists and is being used by many people - that solution is dental implants.

Are dental implants right for you?

Dental implants can be used in many situations. Whether you've lost a single tooth from an accident or you've had all of your teeth pulled because of dental problems, you can use dental implants to give you the feel of having your actual teeth securely held in place almost as if you were able to grow new permanent teeth. Another consideration is the cost of the procedure. Even if you have dental insurance, dental implants may not be covered and the price per implant can range from £1000 to £2000.

What are dental implants?

Dental implants are basically metal screws implanted into your jaw bone to serve as replacement roots for the new teeth your dentist will be creating for you. Unlike traditional false teeth, dental implants stay in place all the time and feel like real teeth.

The dental implant procedure is performed in the dentist's office. You will be given a local anesthetic to numb your mouth so that you won't be able to feel any pain during the process.

Are you a good candidate?

One major factor in determining whether you are a good candidate is how much bone is available at the site where the dental implant will be placed. Without sufficient healthy bone available, the implant won't be able to take. This is more likely to be a problem if you've had no tooth in that location for a long period of time because once a tooth is gone the bone automatically begins to thin.

If you have Type II Diabetes or any other health problem which interferes with the healing process, you may not be a good candidate for dental implants. Proper healing is critical to the success of the implants, so many cosmetic dentists will advise against the procedure if that might be a problem.

How is the procedure performed?

Before the procedure is even scheduled, your cosmetic dentist will want to X-ray the area of your mouth where the implant is going to be placed. The X-ray will allow the dentist to know for sure whether or not enough bone is present for the dental implant to "take."

If that turns out well, you'll return for the actual procedure. After you have been given the local anesthetic, your dentist will begin by cutting into the gums to reach the jawbone. Once that is done, your dentist will begin drilling into your jawbone using increasingly larger bits to create the correct size of hole for the metal implant. Once the implant is in place, a cover is added and the wound is stitched.

After the wound has healed and the implant seems to be doing fine, your dentist will build the rest of your crown and will create the actual tooth that will take the place. In some cases, dentists are actually adding the crown at the same time the implant is imbedded in the bone. By taking this approach, the procedure can be completed in a much shorter period of time.

At the minimum, each implant will take approximately one hour to embed in the jaw bone.

How long will it take before I feel normal again?

Although getting dental implants may sound like a painful procedure, the discomfort after the anesthesia wears off will be minimal and should feel no worse than simply having a tooth pulled. You can use over-the-counter pain medication to help alleviate that discomfort as necessary.

For the next seven to ten days, you can expect some aching and swelling in your gums, as well as some bleeding. These problems are only temporary and can be eased with ice packs.

If you are having the crown built later, you'll have to wait three to six months after the initial dental implant procedure is completed. By then, your gum should be well-healed. During this time, you will need to be very meticulous about your oral hygiene.

After you complete both surgeries and your wounds heal, you'll feel as good as new.

Are there any risks?

As with any surgical procedure, the main risks are complications from the anesthesia or from an infection. However, these are not common and your dentist will probably give you antibiotics to take after the procedure to reduce the risk of infection.

Otherwise, the only major risk is for the procedure to fail which does occur in some cases usually because of bone availability. If your dentist believes you are at risk for failing, he or she may use bone grafting or similar techniques to increase the amount of healthy bone available.

Will I be happy with my results?

The majority of people who have dental implants are very satisfied with the results. On average, the implants last up to 25 years for most patients. However, about 5 to 10% of the implant procedures actually fail usually because not enough bone exists for the implant to be placed effectively. After the healing is completed and the crown is added, you will most likely be thrilled with the results and the increased self-esteem it brings.

Further Information

This brochure has been prepared to give a basic understanding of the procedure before a consultation takes place, and to cover many of the questions frequently asked about this type of cosmetic surgery. Final decisions should not be made until an individual assessment has taken place with the surgeon.

There is no obligation on the part of the patient to undergo surgery by attending for consultation.

If you have any further questions or would like to arrange a consultation please fill in the online form on our website at www.surgeryone.co.uk. All enquiries are always treated confidentially.



Email: info@surgeryone.co.uk
Website: www.surgeryone.co.uk