

How do I care for my implants?

Oral hygiene for implants is similar to cleaning your natural teeth. An implant can last many years provided it is properly looked after. The dentist or hygienist will show you the most effective home care techniques. Regular check-ups with the dentist and hygienist are essential to maintain the health of your teeth and gums. The dental hygienist will use special instruments for scaling to avoid scratching the surface and you will be given instruction in using special brushes or floss.

Can my implants be affected by gum disease?

Yes, the gum surrounding the implant is the same as that around your original teeth, so gum disease could occur if your oral hygiene is lacking. You need to maintain good brushing, flossing and interdental cleaning.

Will I be able to remove the teeth connected to my implants?

Only a dentist can remove implanted teeth. The exception to this rule is for denture wearers who have their dentures stabilised by the use of implanted supports such as bars or magnets.

Are implants expensive?

Whilst implantology is not the cheapest form of treatment, the improvement in quality of life it offers can be dramatic. Many patients report being more confident and eating more comfortably after they have had implants fitted. That's why implants represent real value for money.



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DENTAL IMPLANT

PATIENT
INFORMATION
LEAFLET

What is an implant?

An implant is an artificial tooth consisting of a root and a natural looking replacement tooth. The root is made of titanium, which is placed within the gum to form a secure foundation. The replacement tooth is made of porcelain, or a special plastic (sometimes on a metal base) and it is fitted on top of the titanium root. Sometimes the titanium root is used to anchor a denture firmly in place.

When would I need an implant?

Implants are used to replace a missing tooth, or to replace a tooth that needs extraction. If a gap is left from a missing tooth, not only can it be unsightly but the teeth on either side can tip into it over time, causing problems with the bite and, in some cases, gum disease. Whilst partial dentures can be used to replace missing teeth, implants are usually a much better option since dentures can hasten the loss of the remaining natural teeth.



What does an implant involve?

The procedure for fitting an implant is:

1. An initial assessment, this usually includes X-rays
2. Placement of the titanium root in the jaw, followed by a time period for integration
3. A very minor procedure to uncover the top of the titanium root
4. Taking an impression of the new root and its relationship to the other teeth in the mouth
5. Fitting the replacement tooth onto the root

In some cases the dentist will be able to combine stages two, three and four. This is termed 'immediate loading'. However, most implants will need 3-6 months before the replacement tooth is fitted on top of the artificial root.

Is fitting an implant comfortable?

As with all dental care, modern techniques are quite comfortable. The initial part of fitting an implant requires surgery to insert the root. This is usually performed with a local anaesthetic but you may also have sedation if preferred. It is not uncommon to feel some soreness or swelling following the procedure. For most people this is very minor and can be controlled by taking over-the-counter painkillers.

*Strong, natural looking
and scientifically proven*

Are implants safe? How often will I need to replace my implants?

Implants are tried-and-tested, they have been used for a long time and are considered very safe. Nine out of ten modern implants will last for at least 15 years.

Can everyone have implants?

Your dentist will examine and take X-rays of the area to be treated, which will indicate whether implant treatment is the best option. Sometimes you may need a bone graft or a procedure called a sinus-lift if the implant needs additional support.

How can implants improve dentures?

Full dentures can be anchored with just a few implants. You will be able to chew more effectively and can avoid the necessity of covering the palate with a plate. This improves the enjoyment and taste of food. The dentures are still removable but they are held by a bar or magnets.

