

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

# DENTAL IMPLANTS



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# THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH MISSING TEETH

## ISSUES WITH MISSING TEETH

Missing teeth not only affect the aesthetics of your smile, they can also have an effect on your jaw and the remaining teeth. When a tooth is lost, the bone responsible for keeping the tooth root in place begins to deteriorate due to loss of stimulation. This deterioration of the jawbone can lead to a sunken appearance in the cheeks, which can result in further tooth loss and a range of other dental complications, including

- *Your bite may become unbalanced*
- *You may lose your ability to chew and speak correctly*
- *Further gaps may arise due to displacement of the surrounding teeth*

A single missing tooth can cause the surrounding teeth to migrate into the gap. In some cases, this can cause a misaligned bite, causing jaw pain, neck pain and issues with headaches. Missing teeth can also be a contributing factor to TMD [temporomandibular joint disorder]. Replacing missing teeth can provide support for the jaw and remaining teeth, preventing future dental issues.

## MISSING TEETH AND THEIR LINK TO GUM AND HEART DISEASE



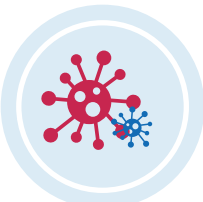
Studies have shown a positive association between periodontal disease and cardiovascular disease.



Researchers believe the bacteria which cause periodontal disease can release toxins into or travel through the bloodstream and help to form fatty plaques in the arteries.



These plaque deposits can lead to serious problems, such as blood clots, which can block blood flow.



Another theory researchers have is that these bacteria cause the liver to increase levels of certain proteins which then inflame the blood vessels.

# HOW DO YOU PREVENT GUM DISEASE?

Preventive dentistry is the most effective approach to avoiding gum disease. This involves visiting your dentist for a general check-up every six months. Ensuring you see your dentist for regular check-ups will allow minor issues such as toothaches, bleeding gums and oral hygiene to be addressed long before any serious problems progress.

The best thing for your oral health is keeping your natural teeth. Each tooth plays a role in the health of your gums and jawbone. When you bite, the pressure helps stimulate jawbone health, stopping it from shrinking. If you were to lose a tooth, the bone that holds the tooth root in place starts to shrink, and this has long-term effects, not only on your jawbone but also on your gums and remaining teeth.

As part of your commitment to preventing gum disease, regular and thorough oral hygiene is essential. This involves brushing your teeth twice a day and flossing once a day— preferably at night. It also involves eating less sugary snacks and keeping sugary drinks to a minimum. We recommend drinking sugary drinks through a straw to minimise the contact of sugar with your teeth. Of course, there are other reasons for tooth loss other than gum disease. These can include injury, trauma or ageing.

**“IN THE FIRST YEAR OF TOOTH LOSS, THERE IS A 25% DECREASE IN WIDTH OF BONE.”**

For this very reason, dentists are much more inclined to try and save your natural tooth, opposed to carrying out an extraction. It's the reason root canal

therapy, when correctly carried out, should be no more painful than receiving a filling. Your natural teeth are the best thing for your oral health simply due to the fact that they affect:

- *Speech*
- *Freedom in your diet*
- *The strength and overall health of other teeth*
- *The strength and health of your jaw*

While healthy teeth may be the best option as far as your oral health is concerned, there are alternatives available for patients who have already lost a tooth or have suffered severe damage to a tooth.



# DENTAL IMPLANTS

## THE BENEFITS OF DENTAL IMPLANTS

Replacing a missing tooth (or teeth) with implant dentistry has a range of health benefits.

The advantages of dental implants can include:

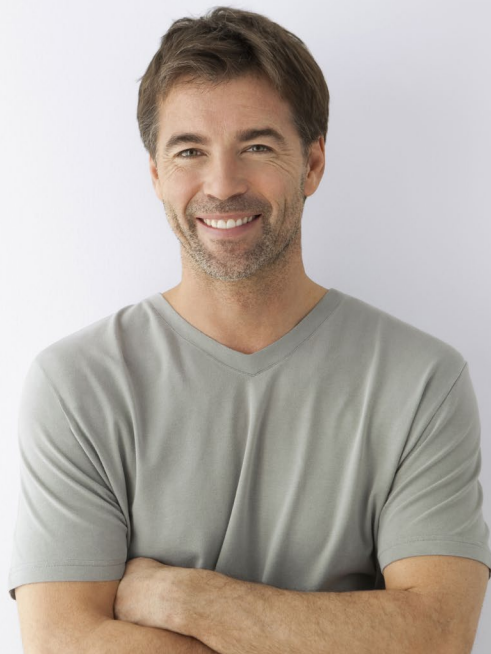
- 1 Provide structural support to the remaining teeth. When you lose a tooth, the teeth on either side begin to shift. This is problematic as it can cause your teeth to become misaligned.
- 2 Implants look after the health of your jaw. This provides normal stimulation to the jawbone to prevent resorption/bone loss.
- 3 Dental implants are biocompatible making them more likely to be accepted by the body.
- 4 You don't require adjacent teeth to be altered, unlike with other restorative dentistry treatments.
- 5 Provide full function and feel of a natural tooth
- 6 Dental implants are designed to be permanent and can last a lifetime.
- 7 Speech and eating capabilities are restored

Dental implants provide convenience as there is no need to remove them like you would dentures. Implants act just like natural teeth, allowing you to go about your regular maintenance routine without much hassle.

## THE BEST TIME TO GET DENTAL IMPLANTS

When it comes to getting dental implants, there is no time like the present. The sooner a missing tooth is replaced, the better. Once a tooth has been lost, the bone (the alveolar) starts to shrink. If left for too long, you may require a bone graft.

As the bone begins to diminish, it can have a great effect on your gums and remaining teeth, giving your face and cheeks a sunken appearance. Through replacing missing teeth with the help of dental implants, you are able to eliminate the repercussions of this problem and continue your life with improved oral health.



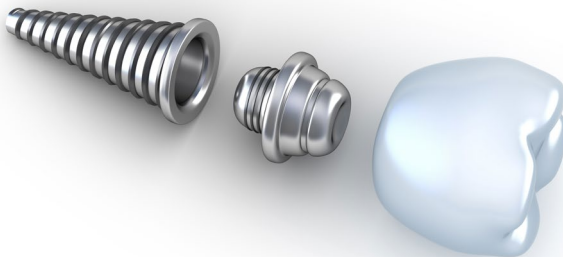


## HOW DO DENTAL IMPLANTS WORK?

Dental implants work by providing increased stability within the mouth, aiding bite pressure and reducing irritation, all while improving speech and aesthetic appearance of the teeth. The reason dental implants are able to provide natural tooth-like benefits is because they are made of biocompatible titanium, which is surgically inserted into the site of the lost or missing tooth.

The implants take between 3-6 months (usually longer if a bone graft is required) to heal and fuse with the jawbone, a process known as osseointegration.

Once the jawbone fuses with the implant, it creates a strong and sturdy tooth root for the restorative dental replacement, e.g. an implant crown, bridge or dentures.



## THE DENTAL IMPLANT PROCESS



### **FIRST APPOINTMENT** *Consultation*

This will involve a diagnosis of your problem including a medical and dental evaluation. X-rays, photographs and mouth impressions are taken. Treatment options are discussed and a treatment plan is devised. Further jaw imaging is requested.



### **SECOND APPOINTMENT** *Implant Placement*

The dental implant is placed into the ideal position in your jaw bone. This can be performed under local anaesthesia, IV sedation, or a general anaesthetic depending on your preference.



### **THIRD APPOINTMENT** *Impression Taking*

Impressions of the healed implant are taken. This is not a surgical procedure. Our expert technicians take a shade selection to match the colour of the new crown/bridge to that of your natural teeth



### **FOURTH APPOINTMENT** *Insertion of Teeth*

Your new tooth/teeth are inserted into your mouth. Instructions are provided on how to best care for your new teeth. This is usually followed by a few follow-up visits to check functionality and aesthetics. In short, re-examination is to ensure you are completely satisfied with your new teeth.

# DENTAL IMPLANT CANDIDACY

## DETERMINING YOUR SUITABILITY

Determining implant candidacy and suitability can mean the difference between a successful and failed surgery.

The most obvious sign of candidacy for dental implants is missing teeth. However, there are a few other factors you should take into account when considering dental implants. Being healthy is the most predominant aspect of candidacy. Some issues and illnesses can affect whether or not the implant will fuse to your bone. Some of these issues are:

- *Uncontrolled diabetes*
- *Smoking*
- *Alcoholism*
- *Cancer*
- *Radiation to the jaw*
- *Gum disease*

Before you begin treatment, you must discuss your current medical condition with your dentist. They will be able to advise you on whether dental implants will be a viable option depending on your situation.



**Have An Enquiry?**

**Contact Us On**

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