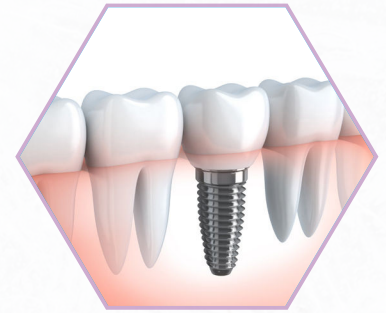


WHAT ARE DENTAL IMPLANTS?

A dental implant is a titanium metal rod that is surgically placed into the bone. The implant bonds strongly to the jawbone becoming a solid, fixed structure used to support one or more false teeth.

In practice, both the false teeth and their supporting rod are known as 'implants'.



ARE IMPLANTS SAFE AND HOW LONG WILL THEY LAST?

Implants are a well established, tried and tested treatment. With proper care over 95% of modern implants should last for many years.



I HAVE SOME OF MY OWN TEETH. CAN I STILL HAVE IMPLANTS?

You can have any number of teeth replaced with implants to restore your smile – from a single tooth to multiple teeth and even a full arch.



CAN IMPLANTS ALWAYS BE USED TO REPLACE MISSING TEETH?

Placement of implants depends on the condition of your jawbone. If you are interested in having an implant, we will take various scans to assess the quality and quantity of bone available and plan your case.

We do this to ensure as much as possible that your money is well spent achieving a good outcome without complications.

Once we have thoroughly planned your case, we will provide you with an estimate of the time and cost involved.



DO IMPLANTS HURT?

Placing implants means a small operation. This can be performed using a simple local anaesthetic and sometimes sedation if you are very nervous.

You will not feel any pain at the time of placement but may feel some discomfort during the week after surgery. This is usually due to having stitches and is part of the normal healing process.



HOW LONG DOES TREATMENT TAKE?

We will be able to give you an approximate timetable before treatment starts. Usually the permanent teeth are fitted three to six months after the implants are placed.

WHAT ABOUT AFTER CARE?

We will provide you with pain relief and antibiotics after the surgery. Don't smoke, exercise or drive for the rest of the day. Don't rinse the area and eat only soft foods. It is essential to keep your mouth clean by brushing but do not poke the implant site. You can use a chlorhexidine mouthwash every day during the first week after surgery. This is available from Diamond Dental Care or a pharmacy.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The implants need to bond with the bone after placement, usually taking 3-6 months.

If you are having one, two or three teeth replaced, you may have a temporary denture in the meantime. If you have complete dentures, then you can continue wearing these throughout the healing period once they have been modified after the surgery. A healing cap will usually be placed to protect the implant site during healing.

ARE THE TEETH DIFFICULT TO CLEAN?

Cleaning is not difficult and after care is essential to have a long-lasting, successful implant. We will provide you with detailed advice on how to look after your implants. Cleaning around the teeth attached to the implants is no more difficult than cleaning natural teeth. There may be some areas that are difficult to reach and you'll be shown methods to help you. You may need to visit our hygienist more often.



IF I HAD GUM DISEASE WHEN I HAD MY OWN TEETH, WILL I GET IT WITH TEETH ATTACHED TO THE IMPLANTS?

Yes. If you don't care for the implants and new teeth along with the surrounding soft tissues well enough, then you may find that the implants will get loose and possibly fail. If you clean them as directed and don't smoke, then you should not experience these problems.

CAN I TAKE THE TEETH OUT IF THEY ARE FIXED TO IMPLANTS?

Most artificial teeth attached to implants can only be placed or removed by the dentist. However if you have complete dentures fixed to the implants by bars, then you'll be able to remove them for cleaning.



DO THE IMPLANTS SHOW?

The implants are inserted and buried deep into the jawbone, so your dentist will ensure that the implants won't show during all normal movements of the mouth and lips.

“Over the long term, implants are usually a more cost effective and preferred option.”

DO I HAVE AN IMPLANT FOR EACH MISSING TOOTH?

No, unless you're only having a single tooth replaced. Normally, five or six implants are used to replace all the teeth in one jaw, and each implant can usually support two teeth. For a few missing teeth, two or three implants may be used.



WHAT IF I HAVE AN ACCIDENT?

Both the implants and the teeth supported by them can be damaged by an accident in the same way that a natural tooth can. Therefore it is essential that you wear a professionally made mouthguard when you play sports that involve contact or moving objects.

If damage does occur, the teeth can be dismantled from the implant and replaced. However if the titanium rod is damaged beyond repair, it may be safely left in the jaw if it is too difficult to remove. In this case another implant may be placed alongside to replace the damaged implant.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE IMPLANT DOES NOT BOND WITH THE BONE?

This is extremely rare. If the implant becomes loose during the healing period or just after, then it is easily removed and healing of the bone and surrounding tissues can take place in the normal way. Once the jawbone has healed, another implant may be placed there.



IS THE TREATMENT EXPENSIVE?

Restoring teeth with an implant is generally the most expensive option. However in many situations, the cost of treatment is only a little more expensive than the cost of more conventional treatment with crowns and bridges. Over the long term, implants are usually a more cost effective and preferred option.

There are advantages to choosing an implant. An implant to replace a single tooth avoids the need to prepare the teeth either side for crowns to support a bridge. Normal dentures often interfere with eating or speech due to the denture moving about. But teeth attached to an implant solve this problem as they are anchored to the bone more firmly than natural teeth.

Diamond Dental Care & Implant Centre is dedicated to promoting a high standard of quality in both dentistry and customer care. We have created a relaxed and inviting environment for you to visit and a comfortable and enjoyable workplace for us to work in.

Our priority is to achieve and maintain your dental health. We take great care in helping you understand any treatment in terms of benefit to you as well as time and costs involved.

If there is anything that you wish to discuss with us, please call us on (07) 5477 0889. Alternatively you can send us a question by email from info@diamonddentalcare.com.au at any time.

We look forward to seeing you!

