

STAFF PROMPT CARD

DENTAL IMPLANTS



WHAT ARE DENTAL IMPLANTS?

- Dental implants can be used to replace a single lost tooth or many missing teeth.
- A dental implant is a substitute for a natural root.
- Used to support crowns, bridges or dentures and are surgically placed into the jawbone.
- Small screw made of titanium, metal alloys or ceramic which bonds with the jaw.
- Provides a stable foundation for replacement teeth.
- Preserves the neighbouring teeth and bone structure.

DO I QUALIFY TO HAVE DENTAL IMPLANTS?

- If you have good general health then they will certainly work for you.
- You should have a sufficient amount of good quality bone. However, you may still qualify for implants even if you have lost a significant amount.
- Good oral hygiene is ideal
- You will be expected to answer detailed questions concerning your medical history and you will receive a complete examination of your mouth and teeth.

DOES IT HURT?

- The procedure is usually performed in a surgery under local anaesthesia or sedation.
- Many patients report that having a dental implant is no more painful than having a tooth extracted.
- You will experience some minor swelling and occasionally bruising afterwards.
- Simple painkillers can alleviate this pain.
- Always follow instructions from your dentist so as to prevent further complications.

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WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE?

- Dental implants are surgically placed into the jawbone.
- Gum tissue is opened to expose and prepare the bone.
- The implant is then placed and the tissue stitched.
- The stitches are typically removed, 7 to 14 days after surgery.
- Healing process takes three to six months for the implant to become part of the lower jaw.
- When the gum tissue is ready, a special post is attached to the implant.
- A crown is made and shaded to match your existing teeth. The crown is then slipped over the post and cemented.
- Final result: Crown appears as a natural tooth.
- Operation may take from 30 minutes for a single dental implant to several hours for complex surgery.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

- Dental implants are more affordable than ever before
- Cost of dental implants is dependent upon the individual case
- We will discuss the question of cost in detail and help you make financial arrangements.
- There are a number of financing options.
- Sometimes covered at least partially by insurance, depending on your policy.
- Some patients require additional procedures that can add to the cost of the treatment plan.

REMEMBER:

Ask the patient if they would like to make a no-obligation appointment to discuss dental implants with the implant co-ordinator.