



Dental implant solutions

WHAT ARE DENTAL IMPLANTS?

Dental implants are titanium screws that are placed in the jaw bone. After a healing period, they integrate into the bone and are strong enough to support either crowns, bridges or dentures. This gives you a fixed solution to replace missing teeth.

WHAT OPTIONS ARE THERE TO REPLACE MISSING TEETH WITH IMPLANTS?

If you are missing a single tooth, a single implant can be placed, following healing and integration, a crown (tooth) can be placed on the implant and fixed in to give you a permanent replacement tooth.

If you are missing several teeth in a row, it can be possible to place multiple implants and a bridge fixed in to replace multiple teeth.



If you currently wear full dentures and are sick of them moving, rubbing and causing discomfort, you can place implants to help anchor the dentures in place.

This drastically improves the stability and fit of the dentures and eliminates almost all movement during eating and speaking. In an upper denture, you will also no longer need to have your palate covered by denture acrylic.

If most of your teeth are failing, or you currently have no teeth, you can also elect to have a fixed prosthesis screwed into implants.

This prosthesis is fixed, hence does not need to be removed daily.

This is an amazing solution and it is often possible to have all remaining teeth removed and implants placed on the same day, followed by a fixed full arch of teeth screwed in the very next day.



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WHAT IS THE IMPLANT PROCESS?

1. An initial consultation and a CT scan is necessary to determine your needs and to assess the bone quality at proposed implant site(s). Following which, once you and your Dentist have decided on the best solution, the surgical phase is booked.
2. Implant surgery involves raising the gum back, gentle drilling to make space for the implant(s) and then placement of the implant(s). A few stitches are then placed to hold the gums back in position. This is usually done under a simple local anaesthetic.
3. The healing phase is next, the implant(s) sit in the bone and integration occurs where the implant is solidly anchored by the body's bone. Healing and integration take approximately 3 months, but can vary from person to person and case to case.
4. The restorative phase is next where the crown/bridge/overdenture is made to fit into the implant(s).

WHAT IS BONE GRAFTING?

Sometimes when you have insufficient bone quality or quantity to place an implant, we may need to help the body generate new bone. Bone grafts can be synthetic, animal based or human based. The type of graft will be chosen by your Dentist as the best, most suitable for your case as each type varies in use and effectiveness in different scenarios. Grafts can be placed prior to placing implants, and implants placed after the graft is healed, or at the same time as implant placement. Methods vary from cases to case and your Dentist will advise your best treatment modality.

WHAT IS SOCKET GRAFTING?

If you have to have an extraction and are sure you will likely be wanting an implant to replace that tooth in the future, we highly recommend a socket graft on the day of extraction. A socket graft is a grafting material that we place into the extraction site at the time of extraction. It encourages good quality new bone to form in the extraction site. Although the amount and quality of new bone formation varies from person to person, and we cannot guarantee absolute success, the socket graft will greatly improve the body's potential to generate good quality bone in place to enable easy implant placement in the future. Often when left to nature to heal with no socket grafting, the extraction site can collapse in, or fill in with granulation tissue / poor quality bone, which will make future implant placement much more complicated and/or costly.

WHAT IS SINUS LIFTING?

In your upper jaw, towards the premolar/molar region, you have maxillary air sinuses on both sides. This is an anatomical air space in your jaw bone. At times, these sinuses sit quite low and they can prevent us placing implants of sufficient height. To counteract this issue, we can do a sinus lift, where we raise the floor of the sinus up and place a bone graft in the area so that implants of sufficient height can be placed without invading the sinus cavity. Depending on how low the floor is, we can do a transcrestal or lateral sinus lift. A transcrestal lift is very simple and done at the time of implant placement. Thru the implant drill hole, we gently raise the sinus floor and place a graft, followed by the implant. If the sinus floor is very low and there is minimal bone present, we may need to enter the sinus thru the mouth from the side, and perform a lift. Implants may be placed at the same time as well, however sometimes we may need to lift and graft first, let it all heal, then place implants later on.

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WHAT ABOUT THE ALL ON X FIXED SOLUTION (T24)?

This is a cutting edge solution that delivers amazing optimum results for patients where most teeth are not in good condition anymore and/or are missing most of their teeth /have no teeth.

The biggest advantage of this system is that you will have a **full set of teeth, fixed and screwed in 24 hours after your initial surgery.** We have refined the processes and patient journey, along with utilising the most modern state of the art digital technology to proudly offer the Ascend Dental Surgical Team's **T24 – Teeth in 24 hours.**

As you can imagine, this option involves complex planning before your surgery. After initial consultation, if you decide to proceed, we will need a couple of visits to take records, scans and do a Digital Smile Design. You will be able to choose your new smile and customise the shape of your new teeth and colour. Once the planning phase is complete, we recommend a full General Anaesthetic for the surgery.

We have accreditation at several Day Surgery facilities and can arrange this for you. While you are asleep, we remove all remaining teeth and place all implants needed at the same time. In most cases, we are able to screw in temporary teeth the very next day! These teeth are fixed and you will be able to smile and eat right away!

After placement, we will need to review you usually 1 week after, 1 month after and 3 months after. Approximately 6-9 months after surgery, your gums, bone and jaw muscles would have settled and it is time for us to make your permanent prosthesis.

Once fabricated, the permanent prosthesis is screwed in, and is fixed permanently. You will need to maintain good oral hygiene at all times and attend annual reviews and maintenance to ensure longevity of your prosthesis.

In very rare cases, if the bone is not ideal and there is insufficient initial implant stability, we may need to fabricate a temporary denture instead of screwing in temporary teeth during the healing phase. This is very rare.

WHY YOU SHOULDN'T DELAY IMPLANT TREATMENT

Natural teeth are anchored into the jaw bone via a ligament. As you eat, speak and chew, forces transfer from the teeth to the jaw bone. This constant stimulus keeps bone levels high and healthy. Once a tooth is lost, the stimulation to the bone stops, and the bone shrinks away due to lack of stimulus. This is why elderly patients who have had dentures a long time get more and more denture mobility issues as the bone shrinks away to nothing over the years.

The longer you wait to place implants after tooth loss, the more bone loss occurs and will reduce the long term success or possibility of future implant placement. Always try to replace any lost teeth as soon as possible, or even better socket graft on the day of extraction for the best chance of good bony re-growth and healing.

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WHAT ARE THE RISKS AND COMPLICATIONS?

Although Implant surgery is very safe and usually quite simple in the right hands, there are always risks we need to ensure you are aware of.

1. Post-operative pain, bleeding, bruising, swelling (for single implants, most people only get mild discomfort for 1-2 days after. For larger cases a longer recovery is usually needed. Discuss this with your Dentist)
2. Reduced mouth opening temporarily. This is due to swelling and will ease off once swelling subsides.
3. Risk of infection. This is greatly reduced by taking antibiotics as prescribed and maintaining good oral hygiene at all times.
4. Risk of bone graft or implant failure. As with any procedure in the body, success is also dependent on each individual's body to heal and accept the procedure we have done. Although the best technology is used and processes followed to the strictest standards, there is still risk of failure. Revision or remedial treatment to rectify failures may incur additional cost.
5. Certain medical conditions may reduce healing capacity and implant success. Your Dentist will discuss these with you.
6. Smoking greatly reduces implant success rate. You are advised to cease smoking at least 4 weeks prior to implant surgery and at least 12 weeks after implant surgery. You also need to accept that smoking after implant healing can also increase your risk of gum disease in the future which can lead to implant failure. It is best to quit.
7. Allergic reactions are extremely rare, but can occur in response to medicaments, materials and implant components.
8. As healing is body dependent, there is a small risk of unfavourable healing or gum/bone recession at the surgical sites or surroundings. If this occurs, you might need further treatment to rectify this.
9. Damage to adjacent teeth. All care is taken to avoid this and occurrence is rare.
10. Surface numbness. CT scans allow us to safely place implants well away from any nerves, however sometimes swelling in the area can compress and annoy nearby sensory nerves, which can lead to numbness of areas in the face, skin and/or gums. This is usually very temporary, but extremely rarely can be more permanent.
11. If sinus lifting is done, there is a risk of sinus infections, sinusitis post-operatively. Please ensure you let your Dentist know immediately if you have any issues.
12. If working near or in the sinus, there is a remote risk of foreign matter, instruments or implants being lost into the sinus, whereby they will need to be retrieved by an ENT Surgeon.

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

Our Dentists are here to help and answer any questions you may have. Book in a consultation and we can address all your queries, and concerns. We will also be able to advise on your available options, costs, interest free, zero deposit payment plan options.

DISCLAIMER: IMPLANT SURGERY IS AN INVASIVE SURGICAL PROCEDURE, CARRIES RISK AND RESULTS CAN VARY FROM PERSON TO PERSON. YOU ARE ADVISED TO SEEK A SECOND OPINION.