

# Dental Implants - Frequently Asked Questions

## What are the benefits of dental implants?

Implants provide a permanent solution to tooth loss be it a single tooth or indeed for many, where all teeth have been lost.

## What are dental implants?

They are small surgical grade titanium screws that are gently placed into the bony space where your roots once were. Bone integrates with the titanium for a strong bond together allowing the implant to become your new root. We can build on this to allow individual teeth or bridges to be constructed. Implants are also used to stabilise and retain dentures causing a breakthrough in confidence, comfort and improved lifestyle for many denture wearers.

## Who can have implants?

Anyone can have implants providing you have enough bone present in the right place with no structures to compromise their placement and you are reasonably healthy. We will carry out a thorough examination of your teeth, gums and smile. We can provide you with a detailed treatment plan of that suits your needs. Extra procedures may be required to allow the placement of implants but your dentist will go through the stages of treatment so you fully understand the process.

## What does the treatment involve?

Placing of the implants is carried out at the practice. It involves a simple operation which is carried out under a normal local anaesthetic. The after effects are similar to having a tooth extracted. You may feel mild discomfort and experience some swelling due to the normal healing process, however this is usually well controlled by medication that we will provide.

## How long will the implants last?

Once treatment is completed, routine hygiene examinations and regular appointments with your dentist should ensure that implants last for many years.

## How long does this treatment take?

The implant must be allowed to bond (integrate) with the bone. This may take up to three months depending on the individual patient. It may be possible to place a temporary replacement for your missing teeth. Once healing and integration have occurred the permanent replacement is made and fitted.

## Will there be any pain during or after the procedure?

The procedure is usually pain free and the symptoms are no different to having a filling or extraction. You are able to return to work the following day. We routinely provide sedation to patients having implants and this helps you relax and little or no memory of the procedure.

## Intravenous Sedation

We offer sedation to help you feel relaxed and comfortable during the implant procedure

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For more details about dental  
implants visit our website

[www.summertowndental.co.uk](http://www.summertowndental.co.uk)

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# Replacing missing teeth

The loss or damage of even a single tooth can have a massive impact on everyday life, teeth function and self-esteem. People lose their teeth for many reasons, sometimes due to an accident, illness or poor maintenance. Other people simply inherit poor teeth. Whatever the reasons for tooth loss, it can have a negative impact on your quality of life. You may no longer eat many of the foods that you once enjoyed, you may be self-conscious about your appearance, you may stop smiling or you may experience pain from ill fitting dentures.

Dental implants are a lasting solution to tooth loss and can be used in both aesthetic and functional treatments. Whether you are missing a single tooth or multiple teeth, or would like a secure option to anchor dentures, dental implants could be the best solution.

**Find out if you are suitable for dental implants by booking a FREE consultation with your dentist**

# Bone Loss

If you lose a tooth through accident or injury then what tends to happen is that the area around the missing tooth recedes and the jawbone itself starts to shrink. Our teeth help to maintain bone density by a natural renewal process. This ensures normal bone growth and healthy tooth tissue. Another factor is that of aesthetics: if a person has lost several teeth and has not replaced them then their facial jaw line will appear lined and 'sunken in'. This aged appearance is both undesirable and unnecessary.

One way of preventing this is via a dental implant but this may have to be combined with a bone graft. This involves the grafting of bone from one area of your body into your jawbone to increase its width and depth. Ideally, bone will be grafted from your own body although a synthetic alternative can be used. We use easy-graft™ as the synthetic alternative. Easy-graft™ products are bioresorbable, completely synthetic bone graft substitutes for bone defects.

**WE DON'T USE ANY TYPE OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS IN OUR BONE GRAFT MATERIAL**

# Implants without the need for bone grafting

Dental Implants require sufficient bone of good quality and quantity in order for the dental implants to have stability once the implants are placed in the bone. Once a tooth is removed, the bone in the tooth socket starts to remodel and resorb and after several months, there can be a lot of bone loss in the tooth socket caused by the loss of that tooth. The ideal time for implant placement is around 6-8 weeks after tooth extraction at which time soft tissue healing has occurred but a lot of bone loss has not yet occurred. Waiting 6-8 weeks also allows any infection remaining in the tooth socket to be cleared up. We usually place our implants 6-8 weeks after extractions. At that time we inspect the bone quality and quantity and if there is sufficient bone present then we can place the implant without doing any bone grafting.

# Implant Retained Dentures



Bar retained denture      Ball retained denture

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# Implants in a day

## All-on-4 dental implant technique



This technique was developed to help patients who have had total tooth loss with an efficient and effective restoration using only four implants to support an immediately fitted arch of teeth or fixed bridge. You don't have to worry about experiencing the crippling effects of a loose denture by choosing All-on-4 dental implants.

This process uses **four dental implants** in order to attach the permanent set for replacement of the teeth. It helps in designing the immediate functioning and typically does not require grafting of the bones. The entire procedure **can be done in just a single day**. It requires the minimum amount of recovery time. You will have full functioning teeth that will completely make you feel and look natural.