

Dental implants

What is a Dental Implant?

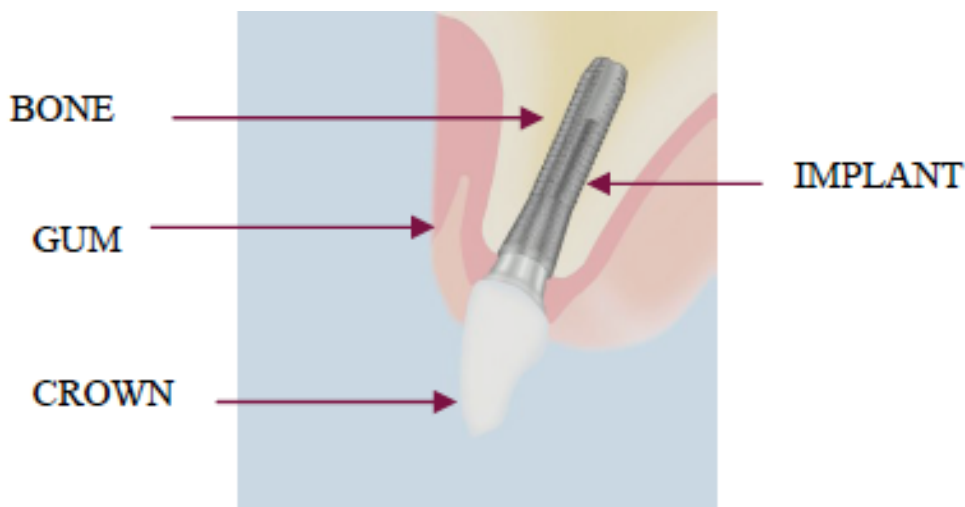
A dental implant is made of titanium and shaped like a screw. It is placed into the jawbone and acts as a root for the new tooth. Once the bone has used to the surface of the implant it can be used to attach different types of dental restorations, such as crowns, bridges or dentures.

How long has Dental Implant treatment been practiced?

Patients have been successfully treated with implants for more than thirty years! The Astra Tech Dental Implant System has a unique design, which has been proven in clinical studies to give safe and predictable long lasting results.

Why have an Implant instead of conventional alternatives?

The conventional alternatives to a dental implant are removable dentures or a fixed bridge. A removable denture may have a tendency to loosen with normal eating, talking and smiling. This can cause a feeling of insecurity. A conventional bridge requires the dentist to cut down the adjacent teeth, which can lead to further problems in the future. Implant supported teeth function, look and feel like natural teeth. They allow you to speak, smile and eat with confidence. One very important advantage with Dental Implants is that they stimulate and preserve the bone of our jaws which does shrink after removing a tooth.



What does Implant treatment involve?

Examination

When you have decided to have implants, your dentist will complete a full examination of your gums, teeth and jaws. Your jawbone will be x-rayed to make sure there is enough bone and occasionally a CT scan may be required. Your general medical condition will be evaluated and impressions of your teeth will be taken. We will then be able to provide you with a detailed plan of the sequence of treatment, costs and any complications.

Implant installation

This is generally a simple procedure performed under local anaesthesia in a sterile dental surgery. The surgeon installs the implants into the jawbone and the tissue is stitched over them. We often use some of the bone saved during implant placement mixed with artificial bone to fill any defects and re-contour the site. The surgical procedure takes about one to two hours and you can return home directly afterwards.

Healing period

The exact duration of the healing period depends on the quality of your bone and the position of the implant. It may be up to 3–6 months. This allows for total integration of the implant into the bone. While you are waiting, we replace your missing teeth with a temporary construction.

Restoration phase

A second minor surgical procedure may be needed to locate the implants and connect a cap that protrudes through the gum. This again will be left to heal for a few weeks. Impressions of your jaws are taken to fabricate a model to aid restoration. A dental technician produces a crown, bridge or denture, which matches your other teeth in shape and colour and attaches to the implant.

Maintenance phase

Patients will be advised on home cleaning of the cleaning of the implant and restoration and given a programme for regular maintenance

Questions and Answers

Does the treatment hurt?

As the implants are installed under local anesthesia, you will feel minimal discomfort during the surgery. The treated area may be swollen for a few days afterwards, which could be slightly painful. In most cases an ordinary painkiller is all you may need.

Does my age matter?

If you are under eighteen, you must be examined to make sure you have finished growing before you can undergo implant treatment otherwise age does not matter.

Do I have to stop smoking?

It is highly recommended to stop smoking. Smoking affects the healing process and may reduce the long-term prognosis.

What is the typical cost?

Having an implant treatment is an investment in your future and quality of life. To have new teeth that feel like your own is a highly valued experience.

The extent of your treatment will determine your cost.

Consultation (including x-rays)	£125
Planning and preparation	£300
Single implant with crown	£2,450
Two implants to replace three teeth	£4,750
Implant retained denture	£4,500

Is success guaranteed?

Current evidence confirms a success rate of 95%. Should an implant fail to integrate with the bone we will remove it and after a period of healing and re-install another implant.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact
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