What are dental implants?

A dental implant is essentially a titanium rod that is placed in the upper or lower jaw and is used to support one or more false teeth.

The term “implant” can however be used to refer to both the rod and the false tooth. Effectively it is a replacement for a natural root.

Are implants safe and do they last forever?

The well-established implant system we use is tried and tested. 90% of modern implants should last at least 15 years and most last for many more years, with some maintenance.

If I have some of my own teeth, and some gaps, would implants work for me?

Dental implants can be used to replace a single tooth or a number of teeth.

Do implants hurt?

Placing the dental implant requires a small surgical procedure. This can be done with local anaesthetic alone or under sedation. You will not feel anything at the time of the procedure, but you may have some post operative soreness in the week following the surgery.

You will normally return to the practice after about one week to check that the normal healing process is taking place, and to remove any stitches that may have been placed in your mouth.

How soon do I have the new teeth?

The new implants need to osseointegrate (bond) with the bone in the jaw. This takes at least 3 months in the lower jaw and 6 months in the upper jaw. The implants may be stable enough to have the artificial teeth attached to them sooner than this.

What do I do while I am waiting for this to be done?

You will have a temporary restoration to wear in the meantime. Dentures can normally be worn as normal throughout the whole time.

Are dental implants difficult to look after?

Cleaning around the teeth attached to the implants is not difficult but needs to be done thoroughly and carefully. Some areas may be more difficult to get to than others. You will show methods to make this as easy as possible.

Can you get gum disease when you have implants?

Yes, if you don’t care for them well enough you can get gum disease in the same way as you would with natural teeth. Good cleaning techniques and not smoking should mean you do not have any problem.

What if I get hit in the face?

Implants and the artificial teeth they support can be damaged by an accident in the same way that natural teeth would be.

What happens if the implant does not bond (integrate)?

This happens rarely. If the implant becomes loose during the healing time or just after, then it is easily removed. Once the jaw has healed, another implant can be place there, or the dentist can recommend another treatment option such as a bridge to fill the gap.

Is the treatment expensive?

In many situations, although the cost of dental implants may initially seem expensive, it may only be a little more than conventional treatments with extensive crowns and bridges and the expected life span of implants is greater. Dental implants also have advantages over more conventional treatments. With implants sound teeth either side of a gap do not have to be prepared and this preserves their tooth structure. Removal dentures can move around and cause trouble with eating and speaking. Implant retained dentures are much more stable.

Christopher Holden & Associates
32 Tennyson Avenue,
CHESTERFIELD
01246 230 230
www.dental-clinic.co.uk

Christopher Holden
& ASSOCIATES
Dental Surgeons

DENTAL IMPLANTS