

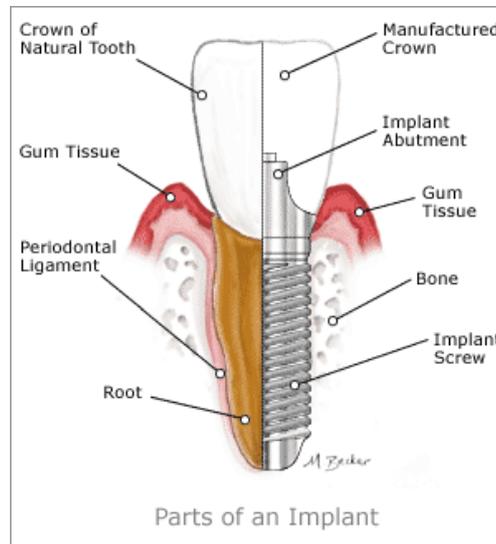


# ***DENTAL IMPLANT THERAPY***

## ***PATIENT WELCOME PACK***

Dr. Syed Abdullah BDS, MSc (Dental Implants)

## What are dental implants?



In the early 1950s, a Swedish Scientist, Per-Ingvar Branemark observed that titanium metal could bond with bone. His team then developed titanium screw that can be used to replace the root of a missing tooth. These screws are called dental implants. Millions of people throughout the world have had missing teeth replaced by dental implants.

### **The treatment journey:**

#### **Stage One: Consultation Visit**

During this visit, we will take some radiographs (x-ray pictures) and impressions for study models for your upper and lower teeth. We will also take intra oral photographs, which will be kept as part of your records.

#### **Stage Two: Assessment Visit**

With the help of your radiographs and study models, we will discuss the various treatment choices with you. We will also fill an implant assessment form, which will look into your medical history, dental history and social history e.g.: smoking and drinking.

#### **Letter from me**

You will then receive a written report detailing the treatment plan with all estimated costs. This will be prepared for you to consider before treatment begins. A consent form will be attached to the letter and need to be read in detail, signed and sent back to me.

### **Stage Three: Preparatory Dental Treatment**

Once we receive your signed consent form, we will arrange for you to attend a series of appointments. These will allow us to prepare your mouth for treatment and to make a template that will be used during your surgery, to guide the placement of your implant(s).

### **Stage Four: Initial Surgical Treatment**

There are generally three procedures that may need to be carried out before implants can be placed in your jaw, namely:

- Extraction of teeth
- Minor bone graft (usually a ramus-block graft from the wisdom tooth area)
- Major bone graft (usually a hip graft in more complicated cases)

If you do not require this initial surgery, your treatment will continue from stage Five.

### **Stage Five: Implant Placement Surgery**

Depending on how many implants you need, will usually dictate how we go about placing them for you. Most of my patients have this stage performed under local anaesthetic injections in the gum, sometimes also with an injection of intravenous sedation in the hand or the arm.

To place the implant, a cut is made in the gum to expose the bone underneath. A series of drills are then used to create a “socket” in your jaw bone into which the implant can be screwed. The gum is then stitched back over with dissolvable stitches. The following day and for up to a week you can expect some swelling and bruising in your mouth and possibly your face.

If you have a denture then you will usually not be able to wear this for two weeks following placement of your implants, to allow for adequate healing of the gums on top of the implant.

You will be given an appointment one or two weeks following this operation when the healing will be checked. It is usual, also, that radiographs of your jaws are taken showing the implants. If you have a denture then this will be adjusted and a soft lining placed about two weeks after your implants have been placed.



Following the placement of the implants you will have a further wait while your bone grows around the implants to ensure they become firmly attached to your jaws (a process known as osseointegration). In the top jaw we wait for six months and in the bottom jaw, four months. Timing is important here but these are only

minimum times, as implants can be left much longer than this before we proceed for the next stage.

### **Stage Six: Implant Exposure Surgery**

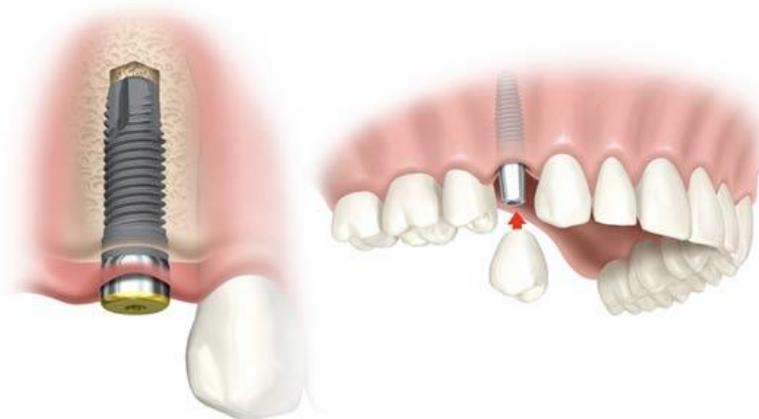
This is the stage where you will usually be able to first see the implant(s) in your mouth. Again depending on the number of implants that have been placed, will determine the type of anaesthesia you receive for this stage. Most patients have this stage performed with local anaesthetic injections in the gum, sometimes also with an injection of intravenous sedation in the hand or the arm. This is relatively minor procedure compared to Stage Five.

Small cuts will be made in the gums to uncover the implants. The thin screws that were put in the top of the implants when they were placed will be removed with a small screwdriver and replaced with some larger screws (known as gingival formers). These protrude through the gum and remain visible in your mouth. Sometimes dissolvable stitches are placed as well at this stage. If you have a denture then usually this can be adjusted and a further a soft lining placed at the same appointment. Other times we might place temporary crowns that will fit onto your implants.

### **Stage Seven: Final Restorative Treatment**

You have now completed the surgical part of your treatment and you probably have a small metal healing screw, attached to each implant, passing through your gum. Your original denture (if you had one) has been adjusted to make room for these healing screws.

Depending on what type of replacement teeth have been chosen for you (either denture, bridge or crown), you will now have a series of restorative appointments. These appointments will allow us to make very accurate impressions of your implants, from which the laboratory technician will create your replacement teeth. Your new teeth will then be connected to your implants and adjusted to make them comfortable and well fitting.



### **Stage Eight: Post Operative Care and Review**

Once your new teeth have been fitted, we will show you how to keep your implants and replacement teeth as clean as possible.

Although your implants cannot decay, they will be affected by gum disease, unless they are kept absolutely clean. You need to be patient and thorough when you clean your implant teeth and you must clean them twice a day, just like natural teeth. However, this may need other types of toothbrushes and dental floss, than you use for your teeth.

We will arrange for you to attend the first post operative review appointment within the first 4 weeks which will be free of charge and will include scale and polish.

Afterwards you will need to attend regular review visits which will include clinical and radiological examination in addition to scale and polish to maintain high oral hygiene standards. You will be charged separately for these visits.

Finally.....Few points:

- Having an implant is an investment in your future and quality of life. To have new teeth that feel like your own is a highly valued experience. It is a great and affordable treatment that will save you from other dental expenses in the future. The extent of your treatment will determine the cost.
- Data available on early implant systems has now shown cases functioning successfully for over 25 years and the technology involved in implants has continued to develop and improve even further. Unlike conventional bridgework, dental implant treatment does not involve destructive procedures to adjoining teeth. Additional stress to neighbouring teeth is avoided.
- There is no need to worry about the surgical phase of your implant treatment, as this can be provided with the aid of Intra-Venous sedation without any additional cost. Intra-Venous sedation is an extremely successful, popular and safe procedure for the treatment of nervous patients. It is particularly useful for patients undergoing a one-off surgical procedure, as in implantology. Of course, some patients prefer to undergo treatment with a local anaesthetic alone.
- Feel free to take notes and come back to me with questions at any time and I will be there for you till we go through this experience together.

Yours truly,

Syed Abdullah  
BDS MSc (Dental Implants)