



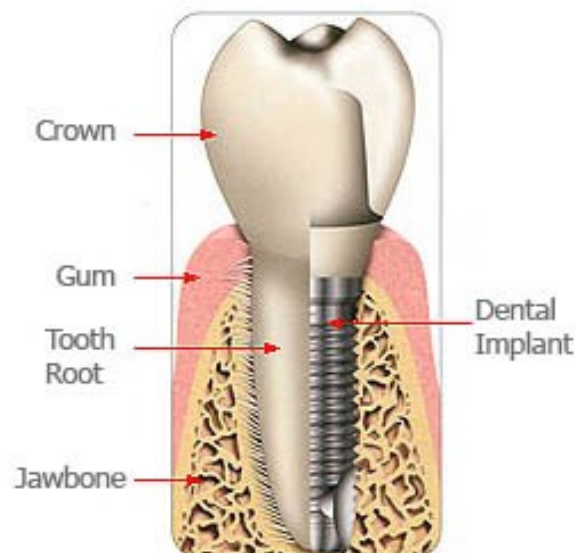
# CBR Prosthodontics

*specialist dental aesthetics and function*

## Dental Implants And You

### Why use dental implants?

Dental implants are a very versatile treatment modality that allows us to provide you with tooth replacements that are fixed in the mouth, from replacing a single missing tooth to replacing a full arch of teeth. Implants can also be used to stabilize new or existing dentures. They are designed to function in ways similar to the roots of natural teeth.



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## Our goals for Dental Implant treatment

If you decide to replace a missing tooth with a dental implant-supported prosthesis, we will have a number of goals that we wish to achieve. In general terms, our goals are:

- **To restore/enhance function.** Teeth have important functions. Any tooth replacement needs to be able to perform those functions. We also wish to avoid doing damage (or increase the potential for damage) to other oral structures. Implants can be very useful in this latter area.
- **Longevity.** No man-made prosthesis (tooth replacement) will last forever. However, success rates in the order of 95% at 10 years give implant supported prostheses advantages over most other treatment options.
- **Aesthetics.** We aim to make our tooth replacements indistinguishable from your natural teeth, or as close to this as possible. Ideally, the highest compliment that anyone can pay to our work is that they do not know it is there.
- **Affordability.** We aim to provide the highest quality treatment that we can for each patient, and to do so in the most cost-effective manner. While dental implant treatment is not inexpensive, we will work with you to achieve the outcome that you wish, in the most economical way.

## Implant systems

Well over three hundred different implant systems are available world-wide. However, only a handful of these systems have long-term, scientific studies to back up their claims for success. Our implant team only uses systems that have a scientifically proven track record, so as to ensure the best possible outcome for you. If you are interested, we can give you more information about the systems that we may use for your treatment.

## Implant success rates

Dental implants have been very well investigated, and a number of studies of ten or more years duration are available to support claims of implant success. With the systems that we use, between 90% and 94% success rates have been achieved at the ten year point. Given these success rates, we would reasonably expect that successful restorations at the ten year mark would last for many years after that time. Although the success rates for dental implants are very high, they are not assured of success. The time of highest risk of failure is during the healing phase in the first month after implant placement. During this period, the implant can fail to integrate with the bone, and become loose. Post-operative infections can also cause healing implants to fail. The risk of these problems arising is quite small (ranging from 4% for some types of implants to less than 1% for others). These types of failure do not mean that other attempts to place implants will also fail, and replacement implants may be installed. Implant manufacturers provide guarantees for their implant components and will supply new implants at no cost. Other risk factors regarding these early failures include:

- **Smoking:** Likely the largest single cause of implant failure, smoking interferes with the healing process necessary for proper implant integration. If at all possible, cease smoking before implants are placed, and continue to avoid smoking for at least the healing phase of treatment. Your surgeon will discuss this with you.
- **Systemic Disease:** Diseases such as diabetes, which affect the body's ability to heal, or fight infection, can increase the risk of implant failure. While these diseases are not strict deterrents to implant treatment, we do need to take them into account in our planning.
- **Gum Disease:** Patients who have a history of gum disease (gingivitis or periodontitis) have a higher risk of implant complications or failure; this risk is greater if the disease is currently active and untreated.

Dental implants can fail in the longer term, but this failure rate is less than 1% per year. Gum infections surrounding implants (very much like gum infections around teeth) can cause significant problems. You can avoid these difficulties by keeping implant prostheses very clean by brushing and flossing well each day.

• **Bisphosphates:** Certain medications taken for the management of bone diseases such as osteoporosis and Paget's disease have been shown to influence healing of bone around Implants. If you have ever taken such medication, please discuss with your surgeon at time of consultation.

Overloading implants through grinding your teeth can also be an issue, and we will advise you if there is any significant risk of this in your case, and what can be done to minimize this risk. Finally, we should note that all prostheses supported by implants will also need maintenance through life, and may need repair or replacement at some stage.

### **Prosthetic complications of implants**

There are several types of complications which can arise from implant-supported prostheses (crowns, bridges, or dentures) over the lifespan of the prosthesis. Most commonly, these include:

- Unpredictable long-term aesthetics: there is very little long-term evidence that the appearance of an implant, especially in the front of the mouth, will remain consistent over time. This is largely due to the fact that everyone continues to undergo changes to their facial shape, including the bones of the jaw which support the teeth and implants. As a result, the gum-line or tooth height of an Implant-supported prosthesis may appear different to the surrounding teeth over time.
- Continued growth: due to the natural movement of teeth over time, a space may open up between the implant crown and the adjacent teeth, causing food trapping. This may require the implant crown to be replaced.
- Loss of screw-hole fillings: small fillings are used to cover up the holes in which screws are placed to hold your prosthesis against the implant. These fillings may be lost over time, and are easy to replace.
- Fracture of porcelain: chipping or breaking of pieces of porcelain from an implant-supported restoration may occur. Sometimes, these porcelain fractures are repairable, but other cases may require complete replacement.
- Wear of retentive elements: if implants are used to help secure your removable denture, the components used to help clip the denture in place will wear over time, and require replacement. This can be done quickly and is relatively inexpensive, depending on the type of retaining system.
- Loosening: implant prostheses held on to the implants by screws may become loose, requiring re-tightening of the retention screws. This is an uncommon but easily resolved complication.
- Component fracture: in very rare circumstances, certain components used to secure your prosthesis to the implant may fracture; these include screws and/or abutments. Again, these are generally able to be replaced without further intervention or damage if managed quickly.

## **Implant Surgery**

We work very closely with skilled surgeons who will manage the surgical implant placement phase of treatment and who will also monitor your healing during the time it takes for the implant to integrate into the bone of your jaw. Your implant surgeon will discuss the various surgical options that you can consider in your treatment. In general, we attempt to minimize the number of operations that will be necessary for your treatment, and at the same time maximize your chances of a successful outcome. We will also be looking to minimize the time it takes for your implant to heal into the bone of your jaw.

### **What is involved in implant treatment?**

There are 8 phases to complete. Total treatment time normally extends between 10-12 weeks from surgery to the final restoration being placed in your mouth.

#### **1. Consultation with a Prosthodontist**

We will assess your dental health and make recommendations in ways to restore your mouth with implants for the best possible aesthetic and functional outcome.

#### **2. Consultation with an Implant Surgeon (periodontist or oral surgeon)**

They will assess your mouth for gum and bone conditions and recommend any necessary gum treatment prior to placing implants. Surgery dates for extraction if required and for the placement of the implant are booked at the time of your consultation.

#### **3. Impressions for the Surgeons guide and Temporary tooth**

If required by the periodontist, impressions for a surgeons guide and a temporary tooth must be taken at least 2 weeks prior to the date of surgery. You must arrange an appointment with your prosthodontist to have these taken as soon as you know your surgery date. Future appointments for the restorative phase of the implant may be made at this time as well (refer to your specific treatment plan). The surgeons guide and temporary tooth will then be sent to your periodontist to be used on the day of surgery.

#### **4. Implant placement**

Placement of the implant into your jawbone is usually carried out under local anaesthetic with antibiotic cover. You must start taking the antibiotics 24 hours before your implant placement appointment. Oral sedation can be prescribed if you are feeling anxious.

## **5. Healing period**

Normally a healing period of 6-12 weeks is required for your implants to integrate with the jaw bone. During this stage you will be required to visit your periodontist for a post-operative check 1-2 weeks after the date of surgery. Another visit approximately 8 weeks from the date of surgery is also required to check that your implant has integrated and to ensure you are ready for the next phase – the restorative phase. In some cases, longer healing times are required. Your surgeon will advise you if this is the case.

## **6. Impressions for the final restoration**

A very accurate impression is taken of your implant, gums and adjacent teeth. This impression is sent to the dental technician to prepare and complete your final restoration. Depending on the complexity of your treatment plan additional impressions may be required to finalise your restoration.

## **7. Placement of the final restoration**

The final restoration is fitted to your implant using a screw and the access hole is sealed off with a filling, which will allow removal of the crown in future should it be required.

## **8. Maintenance.**

The final phase is the longest. We will keep a close eye on your progress in the first twelve months after your restoration is placed. Thereafter, annual reviews and x-rays every two to three years will monitor your situation to ensure that all continues well, or that problems are addressed early rather than being left to get worse. Your implant surgeon may also request routine reviews.

**Whilst there may be some variation from case to case, it is extremely important to follow all of the above phases to ensure the best possible outcome.**

**If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us**

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