

replacement to help you eat and speak normally until the permanent replacement is ready. If your bone structure is strong enough, however, your dentist may be able to place the implant and replacement tooth in one visit.

What can I expect after the procedure?

Most patients will adjust to implants immediately. Some people may feel slight discomfort or notice differences in their chewing or speech, but these symptoms are usually temporary.

How do I care for my implant?

Although an implant's success rate depends on its purpose and location in the mouth—as well as the patient's overall health—a major reason some implants fail is poor hygiene.

It's important to brush implants at least twice a day, as well as to floss in between them. Additionally, as many as four dental cleanings per year may be necessary to maintain gum health.

Restorative treatment

You will need a number of appointments to make your crowns, bridges or denture.

This will include taking impressions and checking the fit of the parts used to make your replacement teeth. In total, treatment could extend over six to twelve months.

Your implant treatment will be carried out by dentists in conjunction with specialists. You may be treated by more than one dentist.

What are the risks?

There is a small risk that the implants may not fuse properly with the bone in your mouth and so cannot be used.

The risk is higher in certain individuals, particularly those who smoke, and you will be advised if the dentist think the risk of failure is higher than normal in your case.

Implant placement involves surgery in your mouth and so will be followed by some soreness, swelling,

bleeding or bruising. Any discomfort is usually controlled with simple painkillers and should only last a few days to a week. It is possible for parts of your implants to loosen or wear out with time.

This can lead to failure of the implant, or the restoration on the implant, if not treated quickly.

You will be responsible for the long-term care of your implants, by seeking care at your own dentist at your own cost.

As some patients who require implants do not have sufficient bone. In these circumstances it may be necessary to carry out a bone graft. This involves more surgery and associated swelling, bruising and pain. The risks of this procedure will be explained to you separately. With a bone graft, treatment may take four to six months longer.

Talk to your general dentist to find out whether dental implants are right for you.

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**Dental
Implants**

Dentistry has come a long way since wooden dentures were used to replace teeth! Nowadays, when you are missing one or more teeth, there are a variety of methods to replace them, including removable appliances, fixed bridges and implants.

What are implants?

Implants have been around for many years and have gained wider and wider acceptance over time as they have proved a successful method for replacing missing teeth. They offer a way to have artificial teeth that look natural and feel secure.

The implant itself, often made of titanium, is used like an artificial root to support the false tooth or teeth. The dental surgeon, places the implant into a hole made in the jawbone.

A post can then be secured to this “artificial root” and can be used to secure a prosthetic device, such as a crown or bridge, above the gum. Implants can also be used in conjunction with a removable denture to create a more secure and stable base for the denture.

Why implants?

Implants have some advantages over removable dentures. As removable dentures are not permanently fixed in place, they can move around when you eat and speak. Additionally, over time the bone that supports the denture changes and shrinks, making it increasingly difficult to support a denture comfortably.

Implants also have some advantages over fixed bridges, especially when the teeth adjacent to the missing tooth or teeth are healthy. In order to create a fixed bridge, your SADA dentist must usually place crowns on these adjacent teeth – as they are the support for the replacement tooth or teeth.

If these teeth are free from decay and existing restorations, you may prefer to leave them in their natural state, rather than alter them to hold the necessary supporting restorations. Implants replace the missing tooth or teeth while leaving all adjacent teeth unaltered.

Who can receive implants?

Dental implants can be provided to most patients who are missing teeth due to decay, disease, injury, or other medical conditions.

You also may be a candidate for a dental implant if you can't wear dentures or find them uncomfortable, or if you don't want to sacrifice existing tooth structure to support a dental bridge.

Since surgery is required, implant patients must be in good general health, with healthy gums and adequate bone structure.

If an implant site lacks the adequate structure, a dentist may be able to perform procedures to improve it.

Implants are not for everyone, however. Chronic conditions like bruxism, diabetes, or leukemia may interfere with healing after implant surgery, so the success rate decreases for patients with these conditions.

This also is the case for patients taking bisphosphonates for osteoporosis.

Additionally, those who drink alcohol or use tobacco may not be good candidates for implants. Your dentist will take into consideration your medical and dental history when deciding if implants are right for you.

How does implant placement work?

Treatment is normally divided into two or three stages, each of which may involve several visits to your dentist.

Pre-operative assessment Before implants can be placed, x-rays and impressions of your mouth will be needed. These allow the dentist to plan the best way to treat you. This will involve several visits to the dentist.

Stage one treatment The next stage of your treatment is to insert the implants. Your dentist will inform you if minor grafting is required at the same time.

As dental implants are artificial replacements for your tooth roots that are placed within the bone of your jaw to support dentures, crowns (caps) or bridges.

In some patients there is not enough bone in their jaw to allow dental implants to be inserted and a

bone graft is needed to increase the amount of bone available.

What happens during bone grafting?

When a small amount of bone is needed, we can transfer bone from one part of the jaw to the other.

The bone graft is normally taken from the back of the jaw or from the chin area. This can be done under local anaesthesia (an injection which makes the area where we are working numb) and with or without sedation (to relax you).

- The gum is lifted away from the underlying bone where the graft is to be placed and the amount of bone needed is assessed.
- The bone is then taken from another part of your jaw after lifting the overlying gum and carefully drilling into the bone.
- The dentist will place the bone to be grafted onto the recipient site.
- The graft may be fixed in position with small pins or screws that can be removed when the implants are placed.
- The gum is replaced and stitched carefully back into place.
- The surgery usually takes about 60-90 minutes.
- The stitches are removed about a week later.

The implants will usually be left for at least three months before they are used to support replacement teeth. Implants buried under the gum will require a second small surgical procedure to expose them before they can be used.

Once the graft has been confirmed as successful, and the site of the bone graft is totally healed, the next stage of the dental implant process can begin.

How long does implant placement take?

Once the implant placement surgery is completed—usually in an hour or two—the healing process begins, and that can take as long as six months. Your dentist is best able to advise you about duration of treatment.

Additionally, the fitting of the permanent replacement tooth is usually accomplished in one to three weeks. Your dentist may provide you with a temporary