

# IMPLANTS

## WHAT IS A DENTAL IMPLANT?

It is a threaded screw made of Titanium which is placed in the jaw. An implant is the most natural way to replace a missing tooth. It can be used to support a crown, a bridge or to stabilise a denture.

## HOW IS IT DONE?

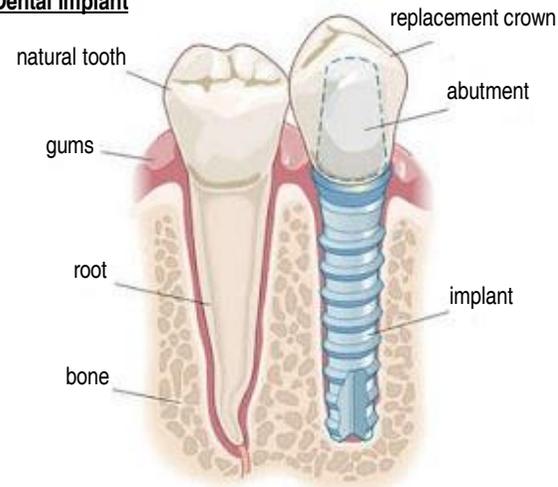
The procedure is done in two stages (when circumstances permit it can be done in one stage):

- Stage 1 involves placement of the implant in the jaw. Then there is a waiting period while the implant integrates with the jawbone. This is called osseointegration. This process takes on average 4 – 6 months. When it is complete, the implant is ready to be used.
- In stage 2 an impression is taken of the implant head and the laboratory uses this to make the crown, bridge or denture which will be retained or stabilised by the implant.

## IS IT A BIG DEAL?

A single implant can be done under local anaesthetic. Multiple placements can be done using sedation, however many patients prefer just to have local anaesthetic.

## Dental Implant



## HOW LONG DO THEY LAST?

Implants placed under ideal conditions and that are properly restored and **maintained** have a 95% chance of surviving in the mouth over a period of 20 years.

## ARE IMPLANTS SUITABLE FOR EVERYONE?

There are some people who are not suitable - heavy smokers, patients with poorly controlled diabetes, patients on some medications for osteoporosis or those with a long term major illness.

Barring these, if you are fit and well and have sufficient jawbone, you are suitable for implants.

Age alone is not a contra - indication for implants.

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