



WHAT ARE THEY?

Dental implants are a permanent tooth replacement method that closely resembles natural teeth. Not only is the top portion replaced but also the root that securely holds the tooth in place.

The 'root' is made of titanium and is designed to fuse to jaw bone as a secure foundation. Dental implants often look, feel and function like natural teeth.

Dental implants can often be used to replace a single tooth, several teeth, all of your missing teeth or help retain and dentures.

Implants are made from titanium which is bio-compatible and can bond strongly to the living bone tissue. The bone tissue grows onto the surface of the implant. When fixed firmly within the jaw bone, the implant will be strong enough to bear the daily forces of chewing and normal function.

During some cases regarding implants our specialised team may be able to place your implants the same day as your teeth are removed, during these special cases of immediate implants often a bone graft may be needed.

During the process of the treatment of implants the time for treatment can vary from patient to patient as it is all depending on how well a patient heals and how fast the healing process is, the average time to fit implants is between two and three months.

TREATMENT PROCESS

1. The first step for implants begins with a complimentary consultation with one of our dentists this normally lasts 40 minutes.
2. The next appointment is your assessment where a 3D scan will be taken of your mouth, which will allow the dentist to see your bone levels in all directions, you will then be given a report and the dentist will then advise you on the best way to move forward with the treatment.
3. Consultation Two is the next appointment where you and the dentist will run through the report given to you in the previous appointment and the scan, this appointment will then allow you ask the dentist any questions you may have, and if you are happy this is when you will sign all the consent forms to move forward with your treatment.
4. The following appointment is when the dentist will insert the screws and the dentist will close the wound using sutures, then there will be a two week wait to allow the wound to heal and the sutures will then be removed by the dentist.
5. The next appointment will take place between 6 and 8 weeks later where the dentist exposes the implant and this is to improve the gum quality and the architecture around the implant and this is to improve the aesthetics of the implant and to make it look more natural.
6. Two weeks following the previous appointment you will come in and the dentist will then fit the teeth to your implants.



7. The final appointment is a review with your dentist 6 weeks later, and this appointment is to check that the implants have healed correctly and that you as the patient are getting along with them okay.

HEALING

After healing, an 'abutment' will be inserted through the gums and into the implant. This can be done under a local anaesthetic. The abutment is the foundation, support or connector for the prosthesis. The gums around the abutments are allowed to heal for several weeks.

TESTING INTEGRATION

We will then test the implant to see if it has properly integrated with the bone. This is important because the implants must be strong enough to support the prosthesis and withstand the forces of chewing and normal function. If the implants have been successful, we will begin work on the prosthesis. The prosthesis may be fixed to the implant with cement or screws so that it is not removable. Or it may be attached in a way that allows it to be removed for cleaning. These are called 'over dentures.'

RESTORATION

When the impressions of your mouth are made and before the prosthesis is finished, we will discuss the appearance of the prostheses with you. If you have ideas or concerns about the appearance of the prosthesis make sure you discuss them with us. Cleanliness is crucial. Implants, prostheses, gums and remaining teeth must be thoroughly cleaned every day so they stay free of dental plaque. Constant attention to cleanliness will improve the chances of the implants being successful. Implant hygiene is a life time commitment for you as the patient and us as your dental team.

RISKS OF IMPLANTS

Like with all surgical procedures, there is a risk involved. Whilst our team is experienced, and the surgeon is an expert in their field, there are a few things you should keep in mind: The procedure itself will be pain-free, but you may experience some soreness for a few days after. We will be able to provide you with the appropriate painkillers and antibiotics as needed to protect against pain and infection.

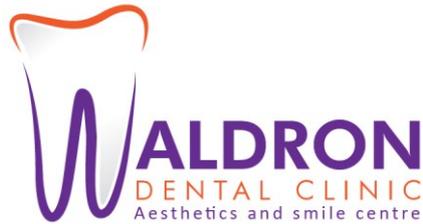
On some rare occasions, the implant may not fuse well to the bone. In this case, a bone graft will be needed, or a new implant placed.

If the implant fails to integrate with the jaw bone, the implant will not be strong enough to withstand the forces of chewing and will require removal.

BENEFITS OF IMPLANTS

IMPROVED FACIAL APPEARANCE

When teeth are lost, ongoing shrinkage of the jawbone often occurs and this could make the face look older or sunken in. Dental implants can usually slow or stop this process. Dental implants may help preserve the integrity of the facial structure and the associated jaw bones. This may result in a more youthful and improved facial appearance.



IMPROVED COMFORT

Dental implants often eliminate the pain and discomfort of removable full or partial dentures. Since dentures sit on top of the gums and jawbone, continuous shrinkage of the jaw bone alters the fit of the denture resulting in slipping or rocking of the dentures. Exposed nerves, irritation or ulceration of the gum tissue may add to the discomfort. Implant supported replacement teeth are closer to natural teeth because they are anchored securely to your jawbone. Gum irritation, ulcers and the pain of exposed nerves that may be associated with conventional full or partial dentures are often eliminated.

EAT BETTER

Dental implants can restore chewing efficiency comparable to that of natural teeth. Unlike dentures they do not move when you chew on them. This helps you to eat your favourite foods with confidence and without pain. A full upper denture covers the palate of the mouth and reduces the ability to taste foods. With dental implants the palate is naturally exposed. This allows the wonderful tastes, textures and temperatures of food and drink to be appreciated and enjoyed.

CONFIDENCE

Dental implants can eliminate the numerous embarrassing inconveniences of removable partial and full dentures. You will eliminate the use of gooey denture adhesives that may be used. You may feel much more confident knowing that you never need to cover your mouth when you laugh or smile, for fear that your teeth could pop out or fall down.

PROTECT YOUR REMAINING NATURAL TEETH

Dental implants may be more appropriate than a bridge for the replacement of one or more adjacent teeth. With conventional bridgework, the teeth surrounding the missing teeth must be ground down. Dental implants eliminate the need to modify these teeth.

SINUS LIFT/BONE GRAFTS

WHAT IS IT?

In some situations, there is insufficient bone to place an implant. This is common in the upper jaw as the maxillary sinus enlarges as we get older due to pollution and allergens. We are one of the UK's leading providers of dental implants and grafts and are able to place implants in these difficult areas.

HOW IT WORKS?

After the tooth is removed/you are assessed for implants, the dentist will discuss enlarging the bone around the implant site. Our surgeons, then can lift the sinus away from the site and place a combination of natural and synthetic bone for highest success rates between the sinus and the implant site. This provides more space to place the implant.



3 months later, the synthetic bone will have blended with the natural bone in your jaw and be ready to place the implant.

ALL ON 4 (IMPLANTS)

WHAT IS IT?

All-on-4 implants is a term used to replace all the teeth in either the upper or lower jaw. It can be a fixed or removable option and is often the most favoured, cost effective choice for our patients, who often “can’t believe they did not do this before” and often feel as comfortable as their natural teeth.

One of the biggest worries our patients have with extraction and tooth replacement is the need to wait for a few weeks or months for the bone and subsequently implants to fully be healed, before the prosthetic teeth can be attached. No patient should need to be in the clinic without the security of a set of teeth they can be happy with.

‘All-on-4’ and ‘same day’ implants provide those with missing teeth the chance to have confident, new smiles that can be enjoyed with a single visit.