



Dental Implant Surgery

Recommended Treatment: After a careful oral examination, radiographic evaluation and study of your dental condition, the dentist has advised that your missing tooth/teeth may be replaced with artificial teeth supported by one or more dental implants. The procedure involves placing titanium dental implants screws into the jawbone. This procedure has 2 phases, surgical phase (*placing the implants and later exposing them*) followed by a prosthetic phase (*getting the replacement teeth attached to the implant.*)

Surgical Phase of Procedure: A local anesthetic will be used during the implant surgery. Other forms of sedation, such as nitrous oxide (laughing gas) or sedative pills (valium) might be used. Access to the bony structures will be either by surgical exposure or laser exposure. A hole or holes will be drilled into the jawbone, and the titanium dental implant screw(s) will be placed. The implants will have to be fitted and held tightly in place during the healing phase. The soft tissue (gum) will be sutured over, closed over or around the implant(s). Healing will be allowed to proceed for a period of four to six months. I understand that dentures cannot be worn during the first one to two weeks of healing phase.

After the required healing time period, the implant will need to be exposed. A local anesthetic will be given, the overlying tissues will be opened and pulled away, and the stability of the implant will be verified. If the implant appears satisfactory, an attachment will be connected to the implant.

Prosthetic Phase of Treatment: This phase is just as important as the surgical phase for the long term success of the oral reconstruction. During this phase, an implant prosthetic device will be attached to the implant. This procedure should be performed by a person trained in the prosthetic protocol for dental implants.

Expected Benefits: The purpose of dental implants is to allow me more functional artificial teeth and/or improved appearance. The implants provide support, anchorage, and retention of artificial teeth or crowns.

Principle Risks and Complications: Some patients do not respond successfully to dental implants, and in such cases, the implant may be lost. Implants surgery may not be successful in providing artificial teeth. Because each patient's condition is unique, long-term success may not occur.

Complications may result from the dental implant surgery involving the gums and jawbone, or from drugs or anesthetics. These complications include, but are not limited to post-surgical infection, bleeding, swelling, pain, facial bruising, transient (on rare occasion permanent) numbness of the jaw, lip, tongue, chin or gum, jaw joint pain or muscle spasm, cracking or bruising of the corners of the mouth, restricted ability to open the mouth for several days or weeks, impact on speech, allergic reactions, perforation of the drill hole into the sinus if an upper implant is being placed, accidental swallowing of foreign matter, and transient (on rare occasion permanent) increased tooth looseness, tooth sensitivity to hot, cold, sweet or acidic foods. The exact duration or any complication cannot be determined, and they may be irreversible.

I understand that the design and structure of the artificial tooth/teeth can be a substantial factor in the success or failure of the implant. It is always possible to have a successful, solid implant and the connection between the implant and the gum and/or bone may fail right away, or even months or years later necessitating the removal of the implant.

Alternatives to Suggested Treatment: Alternative treatments for missing teeth include:

1. No replacement
2. Removable dentures, however, continued wearing of ill-fitted and/or loose removable denture can result in further changes to the bone support of the remaining teeth and to the gum tissue of my mouth.
3. Dental Bridges

Necessary Follow-up Care and Self-Care: I understand that it is important for me to continue to see my general dentist for routine dental care, as well as to get the implants restored with artificial teeth.

I have told the dentist and/or his/her staff about any pertinent medical condition I have, allergies or prescription medications (especially Bisphosphonates) I am taking, including over the counter drugs such as aspirin.

I understand I will need to come for post-op appointments following my surgery so that healing may be monitored and so the dentist may be evaluated and report on the outcome of surgery to my general dentist and/or prosthodontist. I further understand that smoking excessive alcohol intake or inadequate oral hygiene may adversely affect healing and may limit the successful outcome of my surgery.

I know that it is important to:

1. Abide by the specific prescriptions and instructions given to me
2. See the dentist for post-operative care as needed
3. Quit smoking, Implant failure rates are several times higher in smokers
4. Perform excellent oral hygiene once instructed to; usually 1 week after the surgery is performed.
5. Have my general dentist or prosthodontist restore the implant(s) once they are healed and I have been told I am ready for the prosthetic phase.

Bone Graft Materials: Sometimes bone grafting is necessary and performed at the time of the implant placement to build more bone around the implant screw if there is an inadequate width of bone due to bone loss or to grow bone at the bottom of some upper back teeth implant in order to “push” the sinus floor upward. The sources of bone graft material are from human organ donors and/or from bovine (cow) processed in accordance with FDA regulations thru FDA approved commercial bone banks/processors. Sometimes sterile, medical grade calcium sulfate (plaster) is mixed with the bone. Plaster is inserted and resorbs completely in eight weeks; this is a good source of extra calcium content for obtaining a successful bone graft. A covering may be placed over the bone graft, either a non resorbable (needs to be removed) man-made thin Teflon wafer (commonly called a Teflon barrier) or a medical grade, resorbable sterile collagen (commonly called collagen barrier) in a wafer form derived from either bovine (cow) or porcine (pig) Achilles tendon. The purpose of the barrier is to keep the bone graft material in place.

No Warranty or Guarantee: No guarantee, warranty or assurance has been given to me that the proposed treatment will be successful. In most cases, it could be. Due to individual patient differences, however, there can never be a certainty of success. There is a risk of failure, relapse, additional treatment, or even worsening of my present condition, including possible loss of teeth despite the best of care.