

PATIENT INFORMATION · SURGICAL DENTISTRY

Dental implants

One option for replacing one or more missing teeth, planned with a 3D scan.

What is it?

A dental implant is a small titanium post placed in the jawbone where a tooth root used to be. Over the following weeks to months the bone may bond to the post (osseointegration). A connector called an abutment is then attached, and a crown, bridge or denture is fitted on top. Unlike a bridge, an implant doesn't need the neighbouring teeth to be shaped, and implants can help reduce the bone loss that follows losing a tooth.

- **Single tooth:** an implant and crown
- **Several teeth:** an implant-supported bridge
- **Full arch:** implant-supported dentures
- **Bone grafting and PRF:** to rebuild bone where needed; PRF from your own blood may support healing
- **Immediate implants:** in some cases, placed at the same visit as an extraction

Who it may help

- ✓ People missing one tooth, several teeth or all the teeth in a jaw
- ✓ Adults with good general health and healthy gums
- ✓ People with enough jawbone for an implant, or for whom bone grafting may be suitable

Bone volume, medical history, medications and smoking all affect suitability. A consultation with 3D imaging is needed to know whether implants suit you.

How it works



- 1 A missing tooth leaves a gap in the gum and bone.



- 2 A small titanium post is placed in the jawbone, and the bone heals around it over a few months.



- 3 A connector called an abutment is fitted, and a custom crown is made to match your teeth.



- 4 The crown is fixed in place to fill the gap.

Simplified illustration, not to scale. Your own treatment may differ.

What to expect

- 1 **Consultation and 3D planning.** An examination, X-rays and a CBCT 3D scan show your bone, nerves and sinuses. The position is planned digitally; where suitable, a surgical guide is 3D printed in-house.
- 2 **Implant placement.** The implant is placed in the jawbone, usually under local anaesthetic. If there isn't enough bone, a bone graft may be recommended first.
- 3 **Healing.** Over weeks to months the bone bonds to the implant. A healing abutment shapes the gum, and a temporary tooth may be provided.
- 4 **Abutment.** Once healed, the final abutment is attached, usually a minor procedure under local anaesthetic.

What to expect (continued)

- 5 Your new crown.** A crown is designed for your bite, made in-house, then secured in place.

Treatment usually takes a few months, or longer if grafting is needed. Some tenderness and swelling afterwards is common and is usually managed with simple pain relief. Experiences vary.

Risks to discuss with your dentist

- **Surgical risks:** infection, bleeding, swelling and injury to nearby structures
- **Integration:** an implant can fail to bond with the bone, for example because of infection, low bone density, smoking or excess pressure
- **Peri-implantitis:** inflammation around an implant, similar to gum disease
- **Lifespan:** depends on your health, bite, smoking and home care

Any surgical or invasive procedure carries risks. Before proceeding, you should seek a second opinion from an appropriately qualified health practitioner.

Aftercare

- ✓ **First 24 to 48 hours:** rest and avoid strenuous activity; use a cold compress 20 minutes on, 20 minutes off; take medication as directed
- ✓ **First week:** eat soft foods and chew on the other side; start gentle warm salt-water rinses after 24 hours; brush your other teeth normally
- ✓ **Long term:** brush and floss around the implant daily, have regular check-ups and cleans, avoid smoking, and wear a guard if you grind or play contact sport

General guidance only. Always follow the specific instructions your dentist gives you.

Costs & health funds

Fees depend on your treatment and are confirmed after an examination, with a written estimate before planned treatment starts. Your health fund rebate depends on your fund, level of extras cover, annual limits and waiting periods. We can claim on the spot with Tyro, so on the day you pay any gap. All health funds are welcome.

Implant costs depend on the number of implants, any grafting, sinus lift or extractions, and the crown, bridge or denture used. You receive a written, itemised quote first.

Call (08) 9330 7115 if you have heavy bleeding, pain or swelling that gets worse, fever, or anything that worries you. For trouble breathing or swallowing, call 000.

Questions to ask your dentist

- ? Am I suitable for implants, and what does my 3D scan show?
- ? Will I need an extraction, bone graft or sinus lift first?
- ? Could an immediate implant suit me?
- ? What are the risks for me, and what are the alternatives, such as a bridge or denture?
- ? How long will treatment take, and will I have a temporary tooth?
- ? What does my written quote include, and what might my health fund cover?

When to call us on (08) 9330 7115

- Bleeding that won't stop with firm pressure
- Fever or a bad taste

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