

PATIENT INFORMATION · SURGICAL DENTISTRY

Implant-supported dentures

A denture that attaches to dental implants, for a more stable fit.

What is it?

An implant-supported denture attaches to dental implants placed in the jawbone, rather than resting on the gums like a conventional denture. It is often used when there are no teeth left in a jaw but there is enough bone to support implants.

- **Bar-retained:** a thin metal bar joins the implants and the denture clips onto it
- **Ball-retained (stud):** each implant has an attachment that fits into the denture
- **Fixed:** screwed to the implants and only removed by your dentist
- **Bone grafting and PRF:** may be needed where there isn't enough bone

Who it may help

- ✓ People with no teeth, or very few, in one or both jaws
- ✓ People whose dentures move when eating or speaking
- ✓ People with enough jawbone for implants, or who are suitable for bone grafting

Suitability depends on your individual situation and is confirmed after an examination.

How it works



1 When no teeth remain, a conventional denture can move when you eat or speak.



2 Implants are placed in the jawbone, usually two or more.



3 The implants heal and bond with the bone over several months.



4 The denture clips onto the implants, which helps hold it in place.

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

What to expect

- 1 Assessment and planning.** An examination and a CBCT 3D scan check your bone. Often two to six implants per jaw are planned.
- 2 Implant placement.** The implants are placed and the gum is stitched. If bone grafting is needed, it takes several months to heal.
- 3 Healing.** Stitches are removed after one to two weeks, and your temporary denture is adjusted and softly lined.
- 4 Your new denture.** When the gums have healed, abutments are fitted and your implant-supported denture is made and attached.

What to expect (continued)

- 5 Ongoing care.** Implants and denture are reviewed every 6 to 12 months, with X-rays every few years.

Risks to discuss with your dentist

- **Surgery:** implant placement carries risks such as infection, nerve injury and implant failure
- **Time:** healing can take several months
- **Suitability:** you need enough bone, or grafting, and good general health; smoking increases risk

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

Aftercare

- ✓ **Swelling:** use an ice pack 20 minutes on, 20 off for the first 24 to 48 hours, and rest with your head raised
- ✓ **Diet:** soft foods at first; avoid hard, sticky or chewy foods, and don't use a straw
- ✓ **Cleaning:** follow your dentist's instructions; gentle warm salt-water rinses from 24 hours; finish any prescribed antibiotics
- ✓ **Activity:** avoid heavy lifting and strenuous exercise for the time advised, and avoid smoking

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.

Costs depend on the number of implants, any grafting and the type of denture. 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, and how many implants would I need?
- ? Which type of attachment would suit me?
- ? Will I need bone grafting?
- ? What are the risks for me, and what are the alternatives?
- ? Will I have a denture to wear while I heal?
- ? What will my quote include?

When to call us on (08) 9330 7115

- Bleeding that won't stop with firm pressure
- Pain or swelling that increases after day 3, instead of settling
- Fever or a bad taste

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