

Dental Implants

Introduction

We would like to feel more secure during the treatment that is aided by the proper knowledge of schedule, duration, side effects and complications of your treatment.

During the consultation your dentist is going to inform you on the given interventions in details. This informative supply aims at refreshing what has been heard and summarizing the answers of the most frequent questions. Please read carefully this handout prior to the initiation of your treatment and in case of any questions our doubt do not hesitate to consult with DentalCareBudapest.com.

The purpose of this handout is to provide information for you and your approval of treatment with full knowledge and informed consent in compliance with The Lisbon Declaration of WHO of 1981 and with Act CLIV of 1997 effective in Hungary.

What are dental implants?

A dental implant is a titanium metal rod which is based/ screwed by an oral surgeon into the bone of the upper or lower jaw. It is used to support one or more false tooth/ teeth. In practice, both the false tooth/ teeth and their supporting rod/ rods are known as implants. For titanium allergic patients - it is very rare - there are existing implantation systems which are using metal free materials to build up there systems.

Are implants safe? How long will they last?

Implantation is a very well established, tried and tested treatment. 90% of placed implants last up to 15 years.

I have some of my own teeth. Can I have implants as well to fill the gaps/ missing teeth?

It depends on the state of the of the bone in your jaw. Your dentist and oral surgeon will arrange for a number of special tests (e.g. CT X-ray) to assess the amount and structure of the bone you have. If there is not enough bone, or the bone is not strong or stick enough in the area it is not possible to pace implants without bone grafting. On the upper jaw, because of the closeness of the maxillary sinus sinus lifting and bone grafting must happen.

Does implantation hurt?

Placing implants into the bone of the upper or lower jaw requires a small operation. This can be carried out under local anesthesia, with sedation or under general anesthesia. You won't feel any pain during the procedure, but you may feel some discomfort during the week following the operation. This is usually due to having stitches in place, and the normal healing process.

How long does the treatment take?

Your oral surgeon will be able to give you a provisional schedule before the treatment begins. Usually the permanent teeth are fitted 6-9 months after the implants are put in the bone. Until the permanent teeth are going to be fitted you are going to wear healing screws and temporary crowns, bridges, removable partial- or complete dentures.

When can I get the permanent teeth?

The implants need to integrate in the bone after they have been inserted. This procedure takes at least 3 months on the lower jaw and 6 months on the upper jaw. The structure of the bone of the lower jaw is very compact and strong, the structure of the bone on the upper jaw is completely different because of the closeness of the nasal sinus, the ethmoids and the maxillary sinus. Because of the closeness of the maxillary sinus bone grafting and sinus lifting is needed in most of the cases, these facts are making the healing period longer on the upper jaw. In some cases the implants may be stable enough when they are fitted for the artificial teeth to be attached much sooner than the above mentioned time. If you are having one, two or three teeth replaced, you will have a temporary restoration during the healing period (e.g. a bridge). If you have complete dentures then these can be worn throughout the healing period once they have been modified after the surgery.

Are the teeth difficult to clean?

Cleaning around the teeth attached to the implants is not more difficult to clean than cleaning natural teeth. However, there may be areas that cause you small difficulties, but you will be shown by your dentist and dental hygienist special devices and methods to help.

If I had gum/ gingival disease when I had my own teeth, will I get it with the teeth attached to the implants as well?

Yes, if you do not care for them according to the advice of the oral surgeon and the dental hygienist. If you keep them clean and you quit smoking then you should not have any problems.

Can I take the teeth out if they are fixed to implants?

Most of the artificial teeth attached to the implants can only be placed and removed by the dentist with special devices. However, if you have removable partial dentures or complete dentures fixed to the implants with special types of precision attachments or by bars, then you will be able to take them out for cleaning.

Do I have an implant for each missing tooth?

No, unless you are only having a single tooth replaced. Normally, five or six implants are used to replace all the teeth in one jaw, as each implant can usually support two teeth. For a few missing teeth, two or three implants may be used.

Are the dental implants visible when I smile?

Your dentist will make sure that the implants won't be seen during all movement of the mouth and the lips (e.g. smiling, laughing). You will need to be able to see them, so that you can clean them properly.

What happens if I get a hit on my face or I have an accident?

Implants and the teeth they support can be damaged by an accident in the same way that natural teeth can. However, if the false teeth are damaged then the remnants are left in the bone and they may be more difficult to remove than natural teeth would be. After healing, new false teeth can then be placed alongside the fragments.

What happens if the implant does not integrate in the bone?

This happens very rarely. If the implant becomes loose during the healing period or immediately after the healing period, then it is easily removed and healing takes place in a normal way. Once the bone of the jaw

has healed, another implant can be placed there. An other solution is that the dentist can make a bridge or a removable denture.

Is the treatment expensive?

Yes, implantation is an expensive procedure. Implantation has advantages, for example if a single tooth is missing, and the two teeth on both sides of the missing one are healthy, implantation is a very good solution, because to replace the missing tooth the dentist doesn't need to prepare the two healthy neighboring one to make a bridge.

Home care and cleaning

It is inevitable to take a proper and thorough care of teeth. Regular use of adequate tooth brush, tooth paste and dental floss is a must. Cleaning of teeth is carried out in compliance with the advice and guide of a dentist or a dental hygienist. You need regular dental hygienic consultation!

Implant replacing a maxillary lateral incisor



Implants restoring maxillary central incisors



Photos courtesy of Dr. Paul Petrungaro, Lake Elmo, Minnesota.

Important Notice

None of the dental treatments are completely risk free. Your dentist is going to take reasonable steps to limit any kind of complications of your treatment. However, there are some complications that tend to occur with some regularity.

If you have any questions about these complications, or about any other complications you have heard or thought about, please do not hesitate to ask your doctor.