



## DENTAL IMPLANTS

### EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DENTAL IMPLANTS.

How dental implants work, the benefits, the implant procedure and dental implant options for you.

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# DENTAL IMPLANTS

**When you lose a tooth, it's not just your smile's appearance that is affected; oral health issues can quickly arise when a tooth is missing.**

Most people do not understand the health complications that can come with missing teeth. In most cases, speech isn't affected, eating is bearable and life goes on. But this seemingly normal state usually only remains for the short term and underneath the surface, your oral health has already begun to suffer.

Dental implants are the most advanced option for patients looking to replace missing teeth. They are made from medical grade titanium and then bonded to the jaw, providing a secure, long-term replacement for the missing tooth root. Combined with a purposefully designed crown, dental implants offer a virtually identical looking appearance, strength, and function when compared to natural teeth.

***An incomplete smile can lead to patients feeling self-conscious and uncomfortable when smiling. Dental implants offer a solution, rejuvenating the cosmetic appearance and increasing the function of your teeth.***



# WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO REPLACE MISSING TEETH?

The jaw bone is what supports the roots of our teeth. When a tooth is removed or lost, the bone surrounding the jaw is no longer required and begins to recede.

When you lose a tooth, the bone which previously attached the tooth to the root begins to dissolve. Over time, the gap left by a missing tooth will encourage surrounding teeth to fill the space, leading to a misaligned bite and resulting in jaw and neck pain, headaches and a range of other more serious health complications. Also, as your jawbone begins to dissolve, a shrunken aged appearance can form and the stability and structure of other teeth are seriously affected.

With the loss of multiple teeth, a larger amount of bone begins to shrink away. This can cause the facial muscles to weaken and can lead to issues with speech and the ability to eat. Not to mention the cosmetic appearance of your jaw and face.

## The benefits of dental implants

Replacing a missing tooth or several teeth with implant dentistry has a host of health benefits. This includes:

- Preventing other teeth from migrating: When you lose a tooth, the teeth on either side of the gap start to shift. This is your body trying to cover the gap. This is problematic as it can cause your teeth to become misaligned.
- Looking after the health of your jaw: By replacing the tooth root with a dental implant, the growth-stimulating pressure is restored to your jaw.
- Adjacent teeth won't have to be shaved down: Unlike bridges, dental implants do not require existing, healthy teeth to be shaved down.



## IS IT POSSIBLE TO SAVE A DAMAGED TOOTH?

If you still have all your teeth but one of them is severely damaged or decayed, we may still be able to save it by performing a root canal. In the first year of losing a tooth, there is a 25% decrease in the width of the bone. Because of this, dentists are more inclined to save your natural tooth rather than carry out an extraction. This is why, in certain situations, we will recommend root canal therapy as an alternative to a dental implant procedure.

Your natural teeth are the best thing for your oral health because they conserve:

- your ability to talk and to eat
- the strength and health of your other teeth
- the strength and health of your jaw

While your own natural teeth are always the best for your oral health, dental implants are the most advanced alternative for those who have already lost a tooth.

If you've lost a tooth, the sooner you act the better. Once your jaw bone starts to recede, it won't grow back, and if you wait too long, you may require a bone graft in order to restore your oral health. By replacing a missing tooth with implant dentistry, you can avoid this problem.

# DENTAL IMPLANT OPTIONS



Dental implant options have been developed to suit everyone and every need. Whether you just need to replace one tooth or a whole arch, we will find the right option for you.



Single dental implant



Multiple dental implant



Implant supported  
dentures



Full arch restorations

# DENTAL IMPLANTS OR DENTURES?



## Pros of dentures:

- The process can be quick and simple with same day dentures
- More cost-effective than dental implants
- Recommended for patients with weak or unsuitable gums or jaws

## Cons of dentures:

- Without denture adhesive, dentures are susceptible to moving or dislodging while talking or chewing
- May cause some discomfort and difficulty with eating and speaking
- Require ongoing cleaning and maintenance as opposed to dental implants that can be cared for as natural teeth
- Takes time to get used to wearing dentures
- Require periodical replacements. Dentures have a lifespan of approximately five to seven years, depending on several factors
- Maintenance costs like fixatives and cleaning solutions
- Dentures do not prevent further deterioration
- Psychosocial factors associated with wearing a denture

## Pros of dental implants:

- A permanent tooth replacement solution that poses no risk of moving or dislodging
- Looks and feels more like a natural tooth
- Once implanted, implants require less maintenance than dentures
- Easily incorporated into your regular oral health routine with brushing and flossing
- Assist in protecting the jawbone by preventing further deterioration

## Cons of dental implants:

- The process requires more consultation and time than with dentures
- Less cost-effective than dentures
- Not recommended for patients with weak or unsuitable gums or jaws
- Is a surgical procedure and carries the risk of complications such as excessive bleeding, post-operative pain and rejections

# THE DENTAL IMPLANT PROCEDURE

If you have decided to go ahead with dental implant surgery, you can generally expect the procedure to take place in three steps:



## Step 1 Initial consultation

When you visit Redlands Gentle Dental Care for your first consultation, we will discuss all aspects of your treatment — everything from associated costs to possible risks and complications to help you make an informed decision about the implant surgery. Our highly trained team will conduct a thorough oral health exam including x-rays prior to any treatment taking place. This ensures that dental implants are the most suitable option for you.



## Step 2 Placement of the implant

Placement of the implant is the second part of the process. Surgery is carried out in-office with local anaesthetic or light sedation to help make you more comfortable and minimise the presence of discomfort or pain. Using precise, gentle surgical techniques, the implant is surgically placed into the jawbone at the site of missing teeth.

If you are suffering bone loss and require a bone graft, we will arrange for this to expand your bone to a width suitable for dental implants.

Once the implant is in place it will be left to bond with the jaw bone, creating a stable base for the implant. This process is what is known as osseointegration and can take anywhere between three to six months.



## Step 3 Attaching the crown to the implant

Once the implant has bonded it begins acting like your natural tooth root. The final stage of treatment then involves attaching the visible crown to the implant. Each crown is custom made to suit each individual, recreating your own personal smile.

# AM I SUITABLE FOR DENTAL IMPLANTS?



Your suitability for the treatment is a vital consideration that will influence the success of the procedure.

Paying a visit to our practice should be your first point of call when it comes to restoring your smile. During your initial consultation, we will discuss with you, your proposed treatment and also walk you through the treatment plan.

## Suitable candidates

- **An adequate amount of jawbone present**

You will need to have an adequate amount of jawbone present in order for the surgery to work for successful osseointegration. If you do not have adequate jaw bone material, a bone graft can be carried out prior to implant dentistry.

- **Good oral health**

Good oral health is essential for dental implant success. You need to stick to a strict oral hygiene routine to ensure you avoid gum disease and decay and to ensure successful healing of your implant. The state of your oral health indicates whether you can properly handle the treatment as well as any potential risks or complications associated with implant surgery.

- **No presence of gum disease**

Gum disease can cause a high risk of implant failure. If you do suffer gum disease, it will first need to be treated before an implant treatment can occur.

If you would like to find out further information on how dental implants could benefit you, simply book an appointment with our friendly team today. Ensuring you book regular oral hygiene appointments with the **Redlands Gentle Dental Care** team will ensure your implants, teeth, and gums remain in good health.



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