

What is an implant?

A dental implant is an artificial replacement for a tooth root. It is usually made from titanium. It is placed into the jawbone and a process known as osseointegration occurs which holds the implant in place. A new tooth or teeth can be built on top.

Benefits of implant treatment

If you have a missing tooth or teeth, it may be possible for you to replace these with dental implants potentially avoiding damage to your adjacent teeth. This technique can improve appearance, function (chewing and speech), protect adjacent teeth from wear and movement and preserve bone. Occasionally it may be used to assist in orthodontic treatment.

When can I have an implant?

It may be possible to place an implant directly into the socket after a tooth is extracted or into the bone many years after tooth loss. We usually place implants 6-8 weeks after extraction.

Can implants replace my dentures?

Yes implant retained bridgework can be used to replace dentures, and also dentures can be clipped onto implants making them very much more stable and secure.

Testimonial

'The gap in my teeth was at the top, in the middle - unseen by anyone- but I knew it was there. It was also physically difficult to enjoy a meal properly. I didn't realise to what extent it was affecting me psychologically. Since having the implant I've slept better. The surgery was a walk in the park. It was worth every penny' – Kay 2010.

Recommended websites

www.adi.org.uk

<https://www.nobelbiocare.com/international/en/home.html>

You can download a leaflet about dental implants here:

<http://consideringdentalimplants.co.uk/>

Implants at Wall Heath Dental Practice

Free Consultation for our patients

If you are interested in having a dental implant please discuss this with your dentist, who will be able to give you further information as to your suitability and answer any queries you may have. You can then book a free consultation where an assessment of your mouth will be made. This will take approximately 30 minutes. Models of your mouth and photographs will usually be required for treatment and a charge may be made if you choose to proceed.

CT scan

You will usually require a CT scan of your jaw. This is carried out at The Central England Specialist Referral Centre in Solihull and costs £150 to our patients. (usually £300). This enables us to see accurately in 3 dimensions, the amount of bone available for the placement of your implant and the proximity of other structures in your jaw.

Review

Once we have all the information we normally book an appointment to discuss your options with you and give you an estimate for the costs involved. You are then encouraged to consider the information and decide whether you want to go ahead with the treatment.

Frequently asked questions

How long does the procedure take?

Depending on the number of implants you are having the procedure normally takes one-two hours.

How much will it cost?

The initial assessment is free to our registered patients. The average cost of a single tooth implant is £2000. As the number of teeth to be replaced increase, the overall cost usually reduces.

Are they painful? Is the procedure painful?

The procedure is usually carried out using a normal dental local anaesthetic. Since the procedure normally involves exposing the bone in the area where the implant is to be placed there will probably be some swelling and bruising afterwards. For most patients, any of the medication you might take for a headache will be all that is needed for a few days. It is advisable to take it easy for a few days after the procedure.

How many appointments will I need?

Usually between 4 and 8 appointments will be required.

How successful are they?

Well-maintained implants placed into adequate bone can be expected to last for many years. However, just as you would expect conventional crowns, bridge and fillings to need occasional repair, your implant supported teeth may also have similar maintenance requirements and will need to be checked regularly and kept clean.

At Wall Heath we use the Nobel Biocare dental implant systems. These were developed by Professor Branemark who pioneered dental implants, as we know them today. The reason we use these is because they are reliable, straightforward and have longevity, i.e. the company will be around in years to come for long-term maintenance.

What are the advantages to me?

There are several benefits and advantages to be gained from having dental implants which include:

- Improved facial appearance
- Prevention/reduction in bone loss
- Able to eat what you want
- Better dental hygiene
- Increased confidence and self esteem
- No more loose or uncomfortable dentures or sticky fixative
- Improved speech

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