

## WHAT ARE PERMANENT DENTURES?

The latest development in dental implants is Mini Dental Implants (MDIs) that support an entire upper and lower arch of teeth. MDIs provide a solution for dentures that rely on adhesive gels and suction for stability, allowing your mouth to return to its natural health, function and appearance. An MDI has a ball-shaped head that clicks into an associated socket in your denture, providing you with a greater level of security and freedom than a traditional denture. MDIs are placed in a single appointment and the procedure is very simple. There is no waiting time for the MDIs to heal - the dentures are attached immediately after placement.

## HOW DO I CARE FOR MY NEW IMPLANTS?

In order to ensure a long and effective life for your new implants it is important to follow the normal dental hygiene routine of brushing twice every day with a soft bristled or power toothbrush and flossing once a day.

The key benefits of choosing a dental implant:

- Improved appearance
- Improved comfort and speech
- Greater ability to consume a wide variety of foods
- Improved self esteem and quality of life
- Great value when compared to other replacement options
- Long lasting tooth replacement option



If you would like to know more about dental implants and what we can do to help you, please contact us for further information.



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## Dental Implants

- Replacing missing teeth
- Strong and functional
- Permanent, natural results



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During the 1950s Swedish Professor Per-Ingvar Branemark discovered that titanium could be incorporated into living bone to form a functional and structural connection. Since then titanium has been successfully used as dental implants to replace missing tooth roots.

## WHAT ARE DENTAL IMPLANTS?

Dental implants are made from medical grade titanium and are placed just below the gum-line allowing them to integrate naturally with your jawbone and surrounding tissue, a process called osseointegration. They are a substitute for a natural tooth root onto which a crown or bridge is then secured, thus providing you with a permanent replacement solution for missing teeth. Implants look, feel and function the same way as natural teeth and may last for life.

When you lose a tooth your smile is not the only thing that is affected. It is important to replace missing teeth in order to avoid complications such as jawbone deterioration, loss of elasticity in facial muscles and problems with the jaw joint due to the lack of support in your bite.



## WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR DENTAL IMPLANTS?

The first step in placing dental implants is ensuring that you are a suitable candidate for treatment. Your dentist will determine your suitability during a thorough oral examination at which time he or she will check there is adequate bone structure to support the implant, explain the procedure and the expected results in detail and tailor an individual treatment plan.

An implant is placed in a one-hour procedure, usually through a keyhole approach with the use of local anaesthetic. Most patients report little or no discomfort following the procedure and many return to work, and their normal daily life, the following day. During the procedure your dentist will use information gathered at your initial examination to position the implant. The implant is then left to heal and integrate with your jawbone, which takes between 8 and 12 weeks. During this time you may receive a temporary crown or bridge so you can retain your normal appearance and full mouth function. After this period an impression is taken and a new tooth is made to fit precisely against the implant.

## ARE IMPLANTS SUITABLE FOR EVERYONE?

There are a small percentage of patients who are not suitable candidates for dental implants. Some factors that can impede the successful placement of an implant include lack of adequate bone volume, gum disease, smoking, type II diabetes and alcoholism. Certain medications may also pose difficulties. Your dentist will complete a thorough assessment of suitability before recommending you for treatment.

SINGLE TOOTH IMPLANT



MULTIPLE TOOTH IMPLANT BRIDGE



FINAL IMPLANT BRIDGE

