

Frequently asked questions about dental implants



We want you to be fully informed what the possibilities for your treatment are and what procedures the respective therapy includes.

For this reason we decided to create this leaflet and to include in it the questions, most frequently asked by our patients. If you feel like most people, considering dental implants, we suppose you ask yourself a lot of questions.

The decision to proceed to prosthetics with dental implants is essential. They affect the whole organism and its good health.

What are dental implants?

Dental implants, used by most dentists, are root-shaped implants, which means that they are substitutes for natural tooth roots in areas of missing teeth. The dental implant is an artificial dental root which allows the stability of the artificial crown.

It is important to replace natural tooth roots so as to be able to restore aesthetically the crowns of the corresponding missing. Retention of tooth roots in the bone provides a stable base for the teeth and on the other hand keeps the corresponding area in the arch in functional fitness.

In conclusion, the bone secures stability of dental roots and on the other hand tooth roots maintain the bone in anatomic and functional integrity. If teeth are lost for some reason, the bone that has supported their roots melts and shrinks. This process is called bone resorption (atrophy). The bone, however, can be protected from resorption by the replacement of roots with dental implants. In the moment of creation of strong connection between the bone and the implant, it can secure the same function as natural dental root: strong foundation for biting and chewing and stimulation of the arch for preservation of its bone.

The overall quality of life improves when missing teeth are replaced with appropriate, that appear, function and feel like natural teeth.

What are the benefits of dental implants?

With the restoration of dental series with crowns, supported by implants the natural appearance and beauty of smile are preserved and their functionality as well. The result is improved comfort and absolute confidence when you smile, talk or eat. If total or partial dentures are replaced by implant supported crowns, the improving of life quality is even more tangible. The possibility to use all kinds of food is provided. The necessity of tedious adhesives for prostheses devices is eliminated and speech and comfort are improved.

The integrity of facial structures and their appearance are preserved. By preventing bone resorption, which would normally occur after loss of teeth, facial structures remain unchanged. This is very important where all teeth are missing and the lower third of the face is visibly changed if missing teeth have not been replaced with dental implants.

Preserving good health through better nutrition. People using dentures usually have problems with taking certain foods, fresh fruits and vegetables which is actually a compromise with their healthy eating.

Distortion of the structure of restrictive defect teeth is not necessary to restore the missing. Prosthetics of missing teeth with traditional, supported by teeth “bridges” inevitably requires trimming or other injury of solid dental tissues. These trimmed dental tissues can never be regenerated in a natural way and that shortens the life of the tooth. Partial dentures have “hooks” or other holding elements on restrictive defect teeth. This often damages supporting teeth and can lead to their loss as a result of prosthesis. The substitu-

The situation in the oral cavity is restored close at most to natural status.

Improved feeling of stability and confidence. Teeth will not fall while you eat, laugh or talk.

tion of natural teeth with implant supported crowns does not involve the structure of adjacent teeth and thus their structure is not distorted.

Benefits for oral hygiene. Implant supported crowns are very convenient for cleaning. As bridges and crowns supported by natural teeth, they also require thorough brushing and flossing.

The need for denture adhesives is eliminated.

When crowns or bridges are permanently fixed to implants they begin to be perceived as own teeth soon, you will no longer need adhesives for your removable dentures.

The situation in the oral cavity is restored closest to normal status. With the restoration of a missing tooth crown and the replacement of a tooth root with implant we are able to restore the function of the missing structure. This is entirely due to the stability and strength with which implants are held in the bone and secure comfortable and stable masticating process. As a result of that none of these structures in the mouth is felt as "foreign body".

The feeling of stability and confidence is improved that teeth will not fall while you eat, laugh or talk. People using removable dentures often worry that they may fall while laughing, sneezing, coughing or eating. From the moment implants are fastened to the bone and replacement crowns (structures) are firmly attached to the implants, there is no place for concern that they will fall.

Restored appearance. Implants placed in bone protect its structure and this keeps the appearance of the facial structure. Shrinkage of the lower third of the face, caused by complete loss of teeth, can be visually corrected and the remaining bone can be preserved. Your smile will be improved, the replacement teeth looking closest to natural. This is particularly **important** in

The applicability of dental implants is clinically proved.

Implants can be applied to almost every person with missing one or more teeth.

the frontal mouth area where prevention of visible bone defects is critical for the natural appearance of your face.

Recovery of comfort, confidence and self-respect. Many people already taking advantage of the benefits of structures on implants believe that they have significantly improved their self-esteem and inner comfort as a result of the restored appearance, function and healthy nutrition.

Improved ability to feel taste of food. Wearing an upper denture prevents a person from feeling the real taste of food, as palate is covered by the structure.

Who is suitable for treatment with implants?

Almost every person with missing one or more teeth and in good health is suitable for treatment with implants. There are several medical circumstances that may prevent successful treatment with implants such as uncontrolled diabetes, but the quality and quantity of the bone where the implant will be placed is most often a factor for the quality of dental implants. However, even people lacking a significant amount of bone can receive quality treatment with implants by the use of additional procedures for adding bone or creating a new one.

What do procedures for treatment with implants include?

Consultation. The first step is consultation with the dentist to determine whether you are suitable for treatment with implants. This is usually connected with additional examination and may

Procedures for treatment with implants include:

Consultation

Inserting implants

Construction / development of bone around implants.

Installing temporary replacement teeth.

Placing crowns and prostheses on implants

Prophylactic examinations

include taking impressions for models. If you have already lost a significant amount of bone, additional X-ray examination, computer tomography (scanner) will be needed. Your dentist will determine the type of crowns and bridges which are best suited for your needs.

Procedures for placing implants. Implants are places in the bone by soft surgical technology. After the procedure of placing, implants should be left undisturbed for a period of 3 to 9 months or should be immediately functionally loaded to enable the bone growing around the implants and the formation of a strong biological connection between them. That depends wholly on the case and the specific needs of the patient. During this phase of reconstruction of the bone you will have some kind of temporary replacement teeth, so that it will not be necessary for you to stay without teeth during the treatment.

Why does treatment last so long?

The treatment is often of the duration needed to devise “a standard bridge” and sometimes shorter. Even in cases when the treatment is delayed by several months, it is of absolute priority over the traditional, which do not protect the bone.

Is the surgery procedure painful?

Most patients who have been placed implants say that the dis-

According to most patients discomfort is less than that of tooth pulling.

There are no age restrictions in the decision for dental implant placement.

comfort is much less than expected and the procedure is more acceptable than tooth pulling. And although everyone stands pain differently, most patients feel very well even without taking pain killers.

Is it necessary to insert implants to replace every missing tooth?

No. Indeed, it is possible to replace all lower teeth with prosthesis, held on 4 implants only. Each case is individual and should be evaluated by the dentist who will decide the appropriate number of implants needed to support the crowns so as to satisfy the functional and aesthetic needs of the patient.

Am I too old for dental implants?

Overall health and the desire to improve your quality of life are much more important factors than age. When dental implants were first discovered in 1950, the crown supporting implant was invented as a solution for elderly patients without a single tooth.

How long do implants last?

Documentary clinical studies show that implants supporting crowns are successful for more than 30 years. These were some cases where root-shaped implants were used and were closely monitored from the beginning. This is in fact a decision for life. Dental implants are made to be permanent and the factors con-

The average success rate of treatment with tooth implants is over 95%. Smoking prevents the binding of the bone to the implant.

tributing to the long-lasting effect of treatment are: daily home hygiene care and regular visits to the dentist. For comparison, studies show that bridge supporting teeth withstand for 7 – 10 years and that partial or total dentures are functional for about 5 years.

Does dental implant ever fail?

Treatment with dental implants is one of the most successful procedures in medical dental circles with documented success rate over 95%. The treatment is very predictable and there are a small number of statistical cases in which the bone is not completely bonded to the implant. Smoking can lead to problems in the binding of the bone to the implant and failure.

Could the body reject the implant?

Analogy is made with cases of rejection of implants – internal organs (for example heart, kidneys), which logically leads to the question whether similar reaction is possible with dental implants. As mentioned above success rate with dental implants is much higher. This is partly due to the fact that implants in the form of roots are made of biocompatible material, called titanium. Titanium is accepted well in the human body. Titanium is used for orthopedic implants such as hip and knee joints.

If dental implants protect the bone, why do dentists recommend teeth supported bridge?

Naturally, since dental implants protect the bone, if the patient

The implant is constructed of highly biocompatible material, called Titanium. Orthopedic implants are made of this material.

is classified as suitable for treatment with implants, it is usually considered to be the more appropriate. But until the late 80s traditional bridges, supported by natural teeth were considered to be the best treatment for replacing missing teeth.

Moreover, there have been many improvements in dental implant systems in the last decade, giving more opportunities for dentists to take care of their patients. Before the discovery of these improvements some dentists believed that traditional bridges were a better solution for their patients. But most dentists hate the idea of trimming healthy teeth irreversibly for placing a bridge; therefore they would almost always recommend treatment with implants in those cases.

Are there cases in which the dentist would recommend removing the tooth and replacing it with a crown lying on implant?

There are many cases where real teeth are decayed or are about to deteriorate. These include severe paradontologic diseases (gum diseases) which corrode the bone, holding the teeth. Sometimes in such cases it is preferable to remove teeth, to eliminate diseases and infections and to replace teeth with implant supported crowns/ bridges. There are also cases in which endodontic treatment was conducted (nerves were removed from the tooth), leaving the tooth brittle and pliable to breaking. In cases where it is necessary the tooth to be treated again and the prognoses are not favorable, it is preferable to remove the tooth and to replace it with an implant supported crown. Teeth with severe fractures are usually removed and are ideal for treatment with dental implants.

Care for different implants depends on the type of implant placed in the patient. It is similar to that for natural teeth, but the patient should visit a specialist - dentist at least twice yearly.

Are there different types of implants?

Although there are different types of implants, those in the form of roots are most commonly used nowadays. This is mainly due to the extremely high success of this type of implants and the fact that they actually protect the bone, functioning as replacement tooth roots.

What does “to care for dental implants” mean?

The recommendations for care at home are different, depending on the type of implant that holds the crown. For example, a single implant that holds the crown is cleaned as a normal tooth, using normal toothbrush and floss. Implant which holds bridges, replacing several replacement teeth, is cleaned as bridges, held by natural teeth, brushed and cleaned with silk floss. The care at home is a little more complicated for people who lack all teeth. In these cases special toothbrushes and floss are often preferable.

For patients with dentures the visible surfaces of implants should be cleaned as well as dentures. Bridges, held by implants, are cleaned as bridges on natural teeth. In all cases it is advisable patients to visit their dentist at least twice a year. These visits, together with the appropriate care at home are essential for the long-standing success of treatment with implants.

What is the cost of treatment with implants?

The investment in treatment with implants is an investment in overall health, appearance and comfort. It includes preservation of structural face integrity as much as replacement of missing teeth. The actual cost of treatment with implants is determined by a number of factors, such as the number of teeth to be replaced, the type of implant preferable and whether additional procedures are needed to achieve the appropriate aesthetic and functional result.

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