



imogendental  
dental implants



[imogendental.co.uk](http://imogendental.co.uk)

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dental implants

# Welcome and thank you for your interest in Dental Implants at ImogenDental.

ImogenDental, under the ownership of Dr. Neel Tank, has been treating patients since 2005 with dental implants. The team are highly trained in all the latest implant placement techniques and pride ourselves in taking time to explain this complex procedure fully to our patients before starting any type of treatment.

To help you understand dental implants better, this brochure has been developed to give you an insight into what is involved in replacing missing teeth. It is important to us that you have all the information to help you make an informed decision.

At ImogenDental we emphasise that prevention is better than cure. A healthy, stable, well restored mouth is our goal.

Giving you the confidence to smile like you mean it!

## Your Options

There are many options to replace missing teeth available to you.

In the table below are various options to replacing missing teeth, those include; a bridge, a denture or an Implant.

Advantages:	
<b>Implants</b>	Fixed. Preserves gum & bone. No damage to adjacent teeth. The most cost-effective long term solution.
<b>Bridge</b>	A very long term solution and high average life expectancy.
<b>Dentures</b>	Fixed prosthetic device. Inexpensive initially.
Disadvantages:	
<b>Implants</b>	Initial investment is higher. Longer treatment period.
<b>Bridge</b>	The Average life expectancy of high quality bridgework is approx 5-15 years. Adjacent teeth have to be reshaped to fit a bridge. Risk of permanent tooth nerve damage and development of abscesses.
<b>Dentures</b>	Gums and bone often continue to shrink. Frequently move about when eating, talking, laughing and smiling can damage the gums. Average life expectancy of high quality dentures is approx 5-8 years. Gums and bone often continue to shrink.

Bridges and dentures are generally cheaper and sometimes quicker solutions but in most cases implants give you a superior and longer-lasting result. The initial investment in implant treatment may be higher in the short term but because they last longer they are therefore a more cost effective, long term solution.

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## Why have Dental Implants?

Patients who choose to have Dental Implants are mostly long time sufferers of ill fitting or loose dentures and would like a more stable, long term and reliable solution to replacing missing teeth.

Other patients may only have one or a few missing teeth and are finding eating difficult, or perhaps have had an accident resulting in tooth loss causing cosmetic issues and finding removable prosthesis (e.g. dentures) difficult to cope with and are seeking a more permanent solution.



In any of the mentioned cases above, all can be suitably addressed and resolved in the placement of Dental Implants.

## What are the benefits?

There are many reasons to choose Dental Implants, some of the most common are to eradicate the need for removable dentures, or to replace one or several missing teeth.

### ADVANTAGES;

- Dental Implants are made from titanium so they are not vulnerable to the bacteria causing tooth decay.
- A dental implant will stabilises neighbouring teeth – prevent drifting of neighbouring teeth.

When one or several teeth are missing, neighbouring teeth can drift slightly into their space causing minor gaps, food traps, biting issues, and can cause opposing teeth to overerupt and loosen. Preventing this by filling any gap in the mouth with either a denture, bridge or implant can prevent drifting and thus preventing food traps in hard to reach areas when cleaning.

- Dental implant appearance – will look very similar to a natural tooth

The implant itself is placed into the bone and given a period of time for the gum and bone to heal around it. When healing has occurred, the implant will be ready for its restoration. An Implant crown is produced by a highly experienced Dental Technician with the best aesthetics in mind. When fitted the gum is gently encouraged to rest around the restoration giving it a more natural look and resulting in one of the best aesthetically achieved appearances in dentistry.

- Maintain healthy bone level

When a tooth is extracted it leaves behind its socket (the space in which the root of the tooth is situated). After just a few weeks this 'socket' begins to collapse as the site of the extraction heals. There is no tooth there to keep its shape so it recedes. The bone continues to 'collapse' and decrease in level with time as there is no tooth there to keep its shape. A Dental Implant will help to maintain that bone level and prevent it from receding.



- Overall success rate is higher than most dental treatments at 90%
- Permanent Solution

Dental Implants are a better suited treatment option for those wanting a permanent and long term solution to replacing missing teeth. Dentures can become loose and new ones will need to be made. Teeth holding crowns or bridge work can break and decay and could need replacing more than once. Dental Implants are built to be a life long tooth replacement solution. Only the restoration of the implant may require replacement from wear and tear.

- Less damaging – Filling a space may not mean bridging healthy teeth.

A more common way of filling a space in the mouth is to 'bridge the space'. This means to prepare the teeth either side of the missing tooth/teeth to receive crowns carrying a false tooth/teeth. This can be damaging if the teeth prepared for the crowns are vital (alive). Where as having a Dental Implant will not interfere with neighbouring teeth.

#### **DENTAL IMPLANTS DO HAVE SOME DISADVANTAGES!**

- Can be more expensive than some dental treatments.

Initial investment is higher however provides better value for money as it lasts.

- Longer treatment time frame

The overall treatment period for having Implants can be up to 6 months so should not be thought of as a 'quick fix' to replace a missing tooth (or teeth).

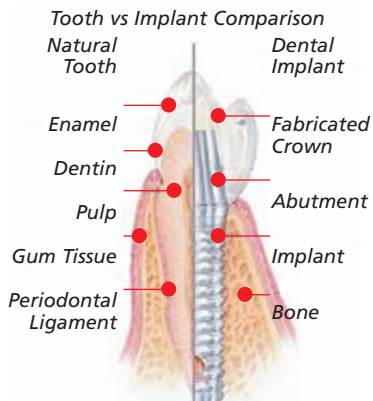
Please read the testimonials of previous patients who have undergone Dental Implant surgery to learn about their experience, this may help you. You can find these at the back papers of this booklet.



# dental implants

## What is a Dental Implant?

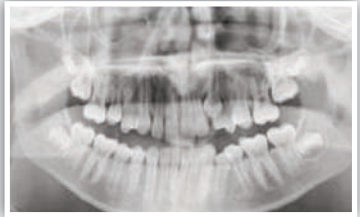
A Dental Implant is a titanium 'screw-like' metal post which is gently screwed into jaw bone in a surgical procedure, carried out by a Dentist or an Oral Surgeon, under local anaesthesia, or in some complicated cases, under sedation. A Dental Implant can replace one or several teeth on the upper and lower jaw. It acts like a root of a natural tooth and carries a tooth like structure called a crown. As shown in example 1 below.



**There are many stages involved in having a Dental Implant placed, these involve;**

- **Pre-consultation chat** - Your first appointment with the practices Treatment Co-ordinator is vital in helping you understand your current situation and the different solutions available to you. Only then can you make an informed decision as to what is right for you. A full and detailed medical history will be taken at this stage to detect if there are any underlying issues that may prevent you from having an Implant placed. This appointment also gives you the chance to ask any questions about the procedure you may have.
- **Consultation** - On referral from the Treatment Co-ordinator you will be seen by a dental practitioner for a thorough clinical assessment to establish the best and most effective course of treatment for you. This gives your dentist the opportunity to have a detailed look at your mouth and begin to formulate a treatment plan which will best suit your needs. Radiographs of your teeth and jaw bone will be required at this stage. Small radiographs are taken at the practice however occasionally larger images are required so you may be referred to a near-by clinic or hospital to have these taken. Having this kind of radiograph will help the dentist to establish the quality of bone surrounding the teeth and the missing teeth, the position of the major nerves on the lower jaw and how close your sinuses are to the upper teeth. All are factors that need to be taken into consideration to help determine the best and most logical treatment options for your individual needs.

- **First Stage** - This is the surgical stage in which your implant will be placed. You will receive a mild local anaesthetic that will make the area of treatment feel comfortable. Once the implant is placed the dentist will fit a 'healing cap' onto the implant to allow the gum to heal over and initiate the implants healing process. In some cases, a temporary crown may be placed on to the implant. In others, the denture previously worn by the patient will be adjusted to comfortably sit over the implant, as a temporary measure, until the next appointment.
- **Healing Process** - The healing process can take between four to six months to fully occur. It involves a process called 'osseointegration'. This means the implant is given a period of time to 'settle' allowing the bone and implant to fully integrate.
- **Implant Review** - Once the selected period of time has passed, you will then be required to return to the practice where the procedure took place to allow the dentist to review how the implant has settled. The dentist will take a small radiograph of the implant at this stage to allow them check to that 'osseointegration' has occurred and is successful. All being well, the dentist will instruct you to make another appointment to have the permanent restoration (crown or bridge work) preparation and impressions (moulds) taken.
- **Permanent Crown/Bridge/Denture Preparations** - At this stage the dentist will 'uncover the implant' by lifting a small area of gum tissue, under local anaesthetic, and 'exposing' the top of the implant to reveal the healed site. A small metal stump will be attached to the implant at this stage called an 'abutment' or an 'impression coping' will be placed and impressions taken. These impressions will be sent to our specialised laboratory for the construction of your crown, bridge or denture work.
- **Permanent Crown/Bridge/Denture Fitting** - A few weeks after the impression taking stage you will be required to return to the practice to have the finished crown/bridge cemented or your new denture connected to the implants.



All in all, the whole procedure can take between four and six months from start to finish, depending on severity and complexity. These will be determined by your Dentist or Oral Surgeon during your Clinical assessment.

There are experienced members of staff at the practice willing to answer any questions to the best of their abilities and encourage patients to get in touch if you have any concerns. Photos that are on the final two pages as these show the implant process.



# dental implants

## Types of Dental Implants

There are a wide range of Dental Implants available each of different lengths and widths. Your specific implant will be chosen at your clinical assessment to suit your individual needs.

Whether you are looking to replace a single tooth.



Single tooth



Several teeth



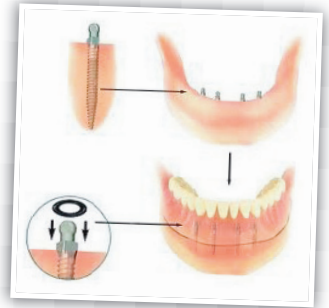
Or you may be better suited to an 'Implant Retained Denture'

Your Dentist or Oral Surgeon will be able to inform you of your more suited treatment options.



## What are Mini Dental Implants?

Mini Dental Implants (MDIs) are miniature titanium implants which act as a supporting structure for an implant retained denture (a denture anchored by up to six implants.) In most cases, MDIs are used to support a denture as the diagram above shows. The top of the implant, which shows above gum level, is shaped like a ball which acts as the retaining feature. It is fitted with a small rubber ring called an 'O-ring' which acts as a shock absorber and supports the denture while seated to avoid high impact on the implant itself. It allows for the denture to have 'micro movement' which means the rubber O-ring allows the denture to move microscopically as a tooth would in its natural socket. Allowing the denture to withstand natural forces without a damaging impact on the bone.



## When can Mini Dental Implants (MDIs) be used?

MDI's can be used to support dentures and for single tooth replacements where space is narrow.

## What is the primary and most effective use for MDIs?

The most effective use for Mini Dental Implants is to stabilise a lower denture. Lower dentures are secured either by clipping to a neighbouring tooth/teeth or in most cases by the facial and tongue muscles adapting to keep the denture in place. A majority suffer a great deal of discomfort due to either loose or an ill fitting lower denture resulting in patients not wearing them for eating and in many cases avoiding social engagements. Also, it's not uncommon for family members to complain about disagreeable breathe caused by food trapping under an ill fitting denture. The Mini Dental Implant will fix a denture in one place which addresses and solves all of the social and practical problems.

## How Specifically can Mini Dental Implants help denture wearers?

The standard procedure for placing a mini implant is that four of them, will be placed fairly close to the front of a patients lower jaw bone (usually where you would find the lower front teeth). The relatively painless procedure can be performed by an Implant Surgery trained general dentist and requires only local anaesthesia. The patients current denture can then be carefully adjusted as a temporary basis before a new denture containing the housings and O-rings is made.



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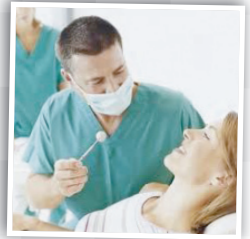
The result? A tight fitting, reliable system which allows a patient to eat and speak with confidence.

The procedure can be done in about an hours time. Because of the minimally invasive technique, size of the unique implants and characteristics of the bone area an MDI patient can enjoy a light meal up to an hour after the procedure is carried out. After a little practice, the patient can remove and replace the denture easily and maintain a good oral hygiene regime making the MDI system a satisfying treatment option.

## Types of Procedure.

There are two different types of Implant placement procedures used in the practice

- Least invasive technique – Which involves a local anaesthesia and the Dentist uses the instruments to make the hole for Implant straight through the gum tissue meaning there is no need to cut the gum and push it back to reveal bone. The advantage with this technique is there is no need for a suture (stitch) to be placed and less swelling.
- Slightly more invasive – Involves making a small incision in the gum tissues and moving it to reveal the bone underneath in order to create the hole where the implant is to be placed.

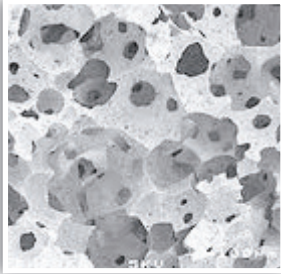


The Procedures described above are the simplest and most commonly used Dental Implant placement procedures in surgery.

However, there may be the need to use more complex techniques as bone tissue may not be adequate enough to stabilise an implant. In these cases we would have to consider bone grafting.

Bone grafting is generally a fairly simple procedure however adds to the overall time frame of the treatment plan as the bone graft material requires a period of time before the implant is restored.

There are three types of bone graft material that can be used;



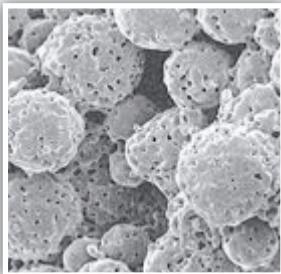
#### **Synthetic**

Created from synthetic cells and organisms to reproduce the properties of bone.



#### **Xenografts**

This type of grafting material is usually extracted from a dead cow or a pig and mixed with cells to make it compatible for human implantation.



#### **Autogenous**

Is a type of grafting material taken from a human. Possibly your own own mouth or hip.



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**Your Treatment Co-ordinator or Dentist will be able to help with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your treatment plan.**

**Q: Do I need to see a dentist as often if I have Dental Implants?**

**A:** It is popular belief that Dental Implants can mean an end to the chore that is the oral hygiene regime. This is not the case. In fact, your oral hygiene regime needs to be of a higher standard to preserve the life of the implants.

Dental Implants will not suffer from the destructive tooth decay like your natural teeth but your implants will certainly fall victim to the most common disease in the UK – Periodontitis, or better known as gum disease, if you do not continue to maintain a good oral hygiene regime and do not continue to see your dentist and hygienist regularly after having your Implant placed.

Failure to maintain a healthy environment for your Dental Implant could mean you begin to see signs and symptoms of deteriorating bone and gum health, as you would around poorly cared for natural teeth, such as red and swollen gums that bleed when brushing. Leading to bad breath, receding gums, loose teeth and eventually total loss of teeth and the implant itself.

Patients often continue to see their Hygienist on a regular basis (every 3 months or when advised by their Dentist) to ensure the best possible care and maintenance of their implants. We advise this as an on going care plan for your Dental Implants.

**Q: Can I still smoke after I've had my Implants?**

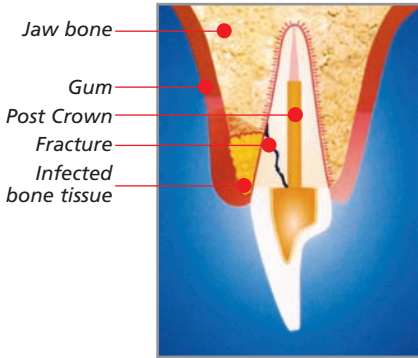
**A:** Before having Dental Implant surgery your dentist will always advise you to give up smoking as this will reduce your chances of healing and Implant success rate considerably.

**Q: Am I obliged to go ahead with treatment if I have a consultation with the Dentist?**

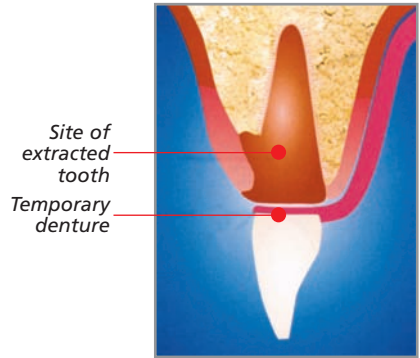
**A:** No. You are not obliged to go ahead with treatment until you have your first surgical appointment booked. Even then, you still have the right to re-consider your options, only, you may incur a cancellation fee for cancelling your appointment as these appointments are made in advance and filling your appointment time with another patient may be difficult and there for mean a financial loss for the practice.

Dental Implant surgery can be a lengthy and costly procedure to undergo. The decision to go ahead with a treatment plan should not be made lightly. After care and affordability should be thoroughly considered before agreeing to commence with treatment.

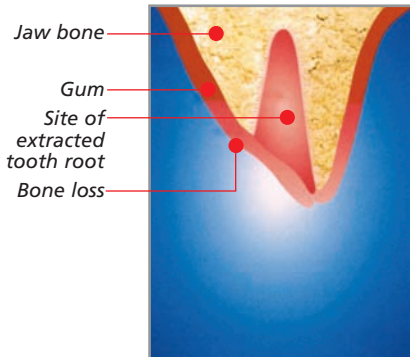
*To talk with our Treatment Co-ordinator please do not hesitate to get in contact with us.*



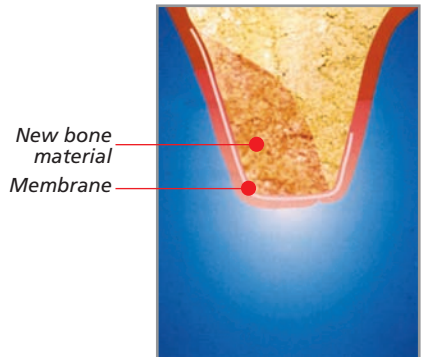
A cross-section of a cracked root and the infection which must be removed.



After tooth removal, the jaw is allowed to heal but you can still wear your denture or temporary bridgework.

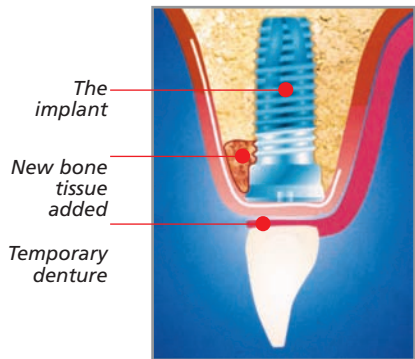


A cross-section of the site of an extracted tooth.

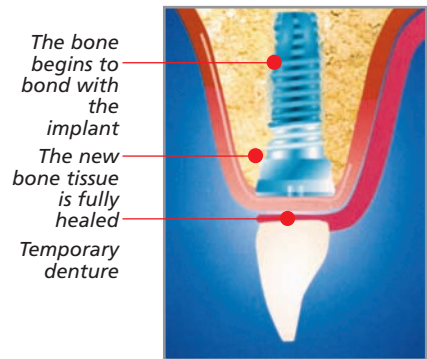


The bone is rebuilt with new bone cells

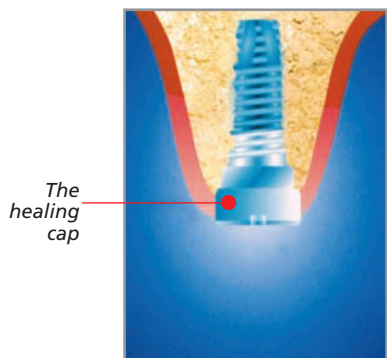
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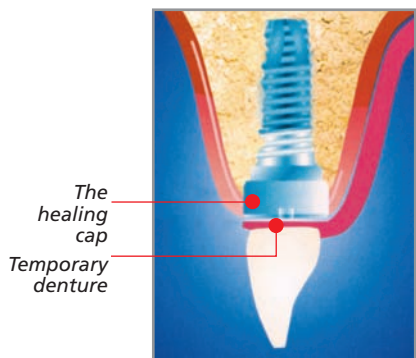
A titanium implant is placed in the jaw and some extra bone is added to repair the previous loss.



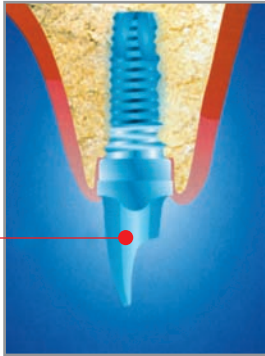
Bone grows on to the implant and bonds it firmly into the jaw.



A healing cap is added to the firmly fixed implant and the gum allowed to heal around it.

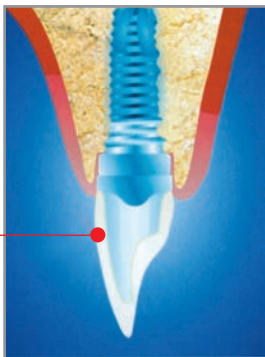


Adjustments are made to the temporary denture or bridgework so it can be worn over the healing cap.



Implant post

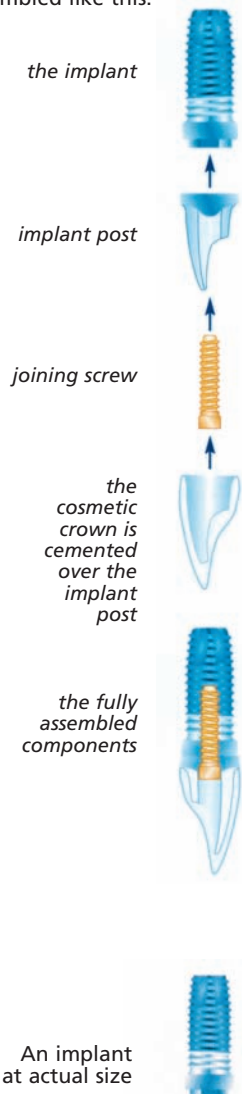
A post is added to the top of the implant...



Cosmetic crown

... and a ceramic crown is cemented on top of the post

The components are assembled like this:



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