



DENTAL IMPLANTS

This online patient advisory is intended to provide you with general information. It is not a substitute for advice from your oral and maxillofacial surgeon. You are encouraged to discuss the benefits and risks of treatment with your surgeon. This is an abridged version of the ANZAOMS patient education pamphlet: "Dental Implants - patient information to assist informed consent". The complete four-page pamphlet is available from your surgeon. It discusses the benefits of implants, treatment decisions, types of implants and prostheses, implant surgery, recovery, success rates, and possible complications of surgery.

People with missing teeth may benefit from techniques that allow artificial teeth to be implanted firmly in the mouth.

These techniques include:

- replacement of one missing tooth with a crown
- replacement of several missing teeth with a bridge
- use of a fixed prosthesis or a removable overdenture to treat a dental arch with no teeth.

Many different types of implants and prostheses are available for people with different needs.

Implant designs, materials and techniques have improved greatly over the past 20 years and are continuing to improve.

Dental implants are an important part of modern dentistry, and millions of people around the world have had dental implants.

Implants may be made of different materials and implanted in different ways. Discuss with your surgeon which type of implant is likely to be best for you.

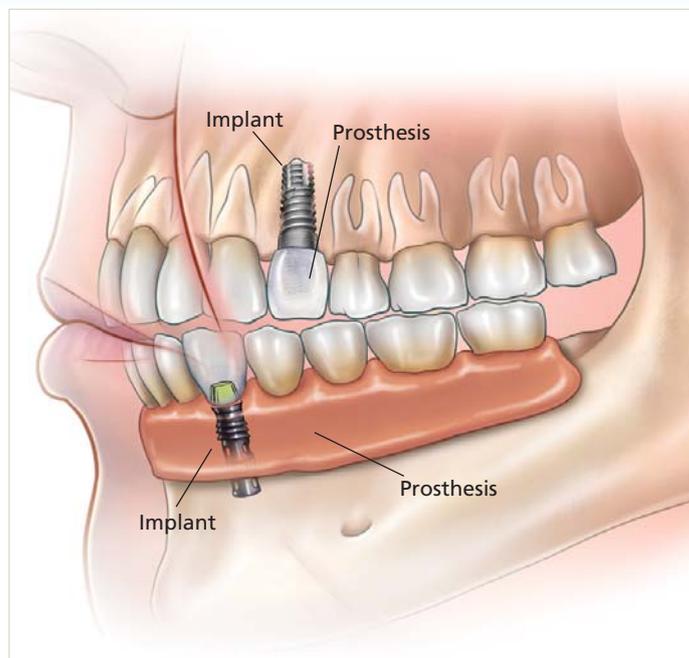
Implant surgery

Your surgeon makes an incision to open the gum tissue. In most patients and with most types of implants, the implant is inserted into the jaw bone. The incision is then closed with sutures. So the jawbone can reach maximum strength to retain the implant, the bone around the implant is allowed to heal for up to six months.

The implants must be held strongly within the jawbone to withstand the forces of chewing and normal function.

The final fitting of the prosthesis is typically completed by a prosthodontist or dentist.

To fit various parts of the implant and allow complete healing, the treatment process can take a number of months. Your surgeon will give you an indication of the likely time in your case.



Your medical history

Your surgeon needs to know your medical history to plan the best treatment for you. Tell your surgeon about ALL medicines that you take and other health problems you may have. Some may interfere with surgery, anaesthesia and recovery.

A decision to have surgery

As you make the decision whether to have implant surgery, be sure that you understand the risks, benefits and limitations of dental implants. Only you can decide if dental implants are right for you. If you have any questions, ask your surgeon.

Anaesthesia

Implant surgery may be performed under local anaesthesia, local anaesthesia with conscious sedation, or general anaesthesia. Your surgeon will explain more about the type of anaesthesia that is best in your case.

Possible risks and complications

Modern techniques have greatly improved the outcomes of implant surgery. However, there are risks of complications, as with all types of surgery. Risks of complications and additional information are more fully outlined in the complete four-page ANZAOMS patient education pamphlet and should be discussed with your oral and maxillofacial surgeon. ©