

## 1. What exactly is a dental implant?

- A dental implant is a root replacement.
- It is a fine rod of metal that is inserted or "planted" into the jawbone.
- The natural root which was removed when the tooth was extracted, is now replaced by a metal root.
- Implants can allow tooth replacement when teeth have not developed because of hereditary or [congenital](#) factors.
- Titanium is the metal of choice.
  - It is exceptionally well tolerated in the human body.
  - Rejection is seldom, if ever, a problem.
  - It is a very strong and durable metal.
- An implant is made up of two parts: The root or body, and the abutment.
- The root is embedded in the bone and the abutment is the part that is visible in the mouth.
- The root portion is left under the gum while bone is growing around it. The abutment is attached at a later stage.
- [Crowns](#) and [bridges](#) are attached to the abutments.
- Dentures can be made more stable by being supported by [abutments](#).



Implant



Natural tooth + Crown on implant

## 2. Are dental implants a good way of replacing missing teeth?

- Dental implants are very successful for replacing single or multiple missing teeth.
- Implants can be used to anchor or support individual [crowns](#).
- They can also support or anchor [bridges](#), replacing one or more missing teeth.



### 3. Can implant-supported crowns and bridges look good?

- Crowns and bridges that rest on implants can be made to look [aesthetic](#) and to match the surrounding natural teeth.



Implant body under gum



Abutment or core



Crown on implant

### 4. Will I be able to chew well with teeth anchored by implants?

- Teeth anchored by dental implants should allow perfectly normal chewing.

### 5. Can implants support or anchor a fixed bridge if all the teeth have been lost?

- Implants can support [fixed bridges](#), even in cases where all the teeth have been lost.



8 implants



Bridge on implants

### 6. Can dental implants support removable partial dentures?

- The firmness and comfort of removable partial [dentures](#) can be markedly improved by using dental implants for added support.



2 implants



X-ray of implants



Dentures over implants

### 7. Can implants be used to firm up loose full dentures?

- The placement of just 2 implants can make a full [denture](#) firmer and more stable.
- Lower dentures are usually less firm and comfortable than upper dentures.

- Implants in the lower jaw can improve the stability of lower dentures.



2 implants + bar



Denture over implants

### 8. How will I know whether I can receive dental implant treatment?

- The dentist will make a thorough examination of your mouth.
- X-rays will be taken to show the quality and quantity of the bone, which is to receive the implant.

### 9. Can medical problems make implant placement impossible?

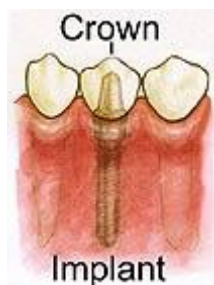
- Most people are able to have dental implant treatment.
- A few conditions such as diabetes, osteoporosis or bleeding disorders may present problems if they are not properly controlled.

### 10. What can be done if there is not enough bone left for implant placement?

- Dentists are now able to rebuild or regenerate enough bone to make implants possible.

### 11. What does an implant restoration consist of?

- The implant restoration consists of:
  - The implanted titanium root which is embedded in the jawbone.
  - The [replacement crown](#) which is cemented or screwed to the new implant. The crown will cover and be supported by the abutment of the implant.



Crown on implant

**12. How are dental implants placed in the jawbone?**

- Under cover of [local anaesthesia](#), a small incision is made in the gum.
- A hole is prepared in the bone and the implant root is placed in it.
- The gum is then stitched closed over the implant.

**13. How long must an implant be left under the gum before it is ready for use?**

- The root of the implant is left covered by the gum for 3-6 months for healing to take place.

**14. Is the placement of implants uncomfortable or painful?**

- Implant placement is carried out with [local anaesthesia](#) and so it is generally painless.
- There may be some discomfort after the placement.
- This discomfort can be lessened with an [analgesic](#).
- There can be some swelling, which may be treated by applying ice packs.

**15. Will I need to be off work after the dental implant placement?**

- When only a few implants are placed, it may not be necessary.
- Placement of a large number of implants may require some time off work.

**16. Will I be toothless until my implant and restoration are ready?**

- Not for long, if at all.
  - Temporary tooth replacements can be fitted.
  - They are functional: you will be able to eat comfortably and well.
  - They are aesthetic: they will look natural and attractive.
- Obviously your permanent restoration will be better in every way.