

Implant Instructions

Implants are one of the new exciting options available for the replacement of missing teeth. They are not always the treatment of choice and all your mouth needs to be assessed before a final decision is made.

Order of Treatment

It is essential that the rest of your mouth is completely healthy and disease free before implants can be placed. It may therefore be necessary to have Conservative, Prosthetic, Endodontic, and Periodontic Treatment, as well as extractions before implants.

Antibiotics

You will be provided with a prescription of antibiotics on the day of your appointment and the appropriate number of tablets will be given to you before treatment commences. Thereafter you take the tablets according to instructions until the medication is used up.

Local Anaesthetic

With local anaesthetic you will not feel the implants being placed. The anaesthetic used is the same as is used for filling work.

Sleeping Tablets

When used with local anaesthetic, you will be less aware of your treatment.

Sedation

Intra-venous (IV) sedation can be provided for the placement of the implants. This makes you sleepy, feel pleasant and not remember any of the treatment. This is administered by an anaesthetist and a quote will be provided if you want this option.

WITH SLEEPING TABLETS OR INTRAVENOUS SEDATION, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO NOT DRIVE FOR 24 HOURS AFTERWARDS AND YOU WILL NEED THE NEXT DAY OFF WORK.

Mouthwash

Chlorhexidine Gluconate 0.2% is prescribed as a mouthwash. It kills all of the bacteria above the gum margin if used as recommended. A tablespoon of this is rinsed in your mouth for 2 minutes twice a day. The mouthwash should not be diluted (however if there is burning of the mouth try it diluted with an equal amount of water, BUT you need to use it twice as long for the same effect).

Side effects: Where you are not cleaning very well the mouthwash will stain your teeth brown. It will also alter taste.

Analgesics - Brufen

Brufen is an analgesic and an anti-inflammatory. You will be given 2 of these at the same time as the Tiberal. Thereafter you should take 1 every 6 hours for the first two days and after that only take them if you find it necessary. This will help keep swelling to a minimum. Brufen is contra-indicated in patients with a history of stomach ulceration and asthma.

In 7 - 10 Days

In 7 to 10 days the sutures are removed, the implant area inspected, and you are then discharged for 3 months for implants in the lower jaw, and 6 months if they are in the upper - two months longer if bone grafts are used

Swelling and/or Discharge

If there is any swelling around the implants, or drainage of pus around your implants or any teeth PLEASE CONTACT ME.

Uncovering the Implant

This is a procedure involving the removal of soft tissue from over the implants. Sometimes the implants will become uncovered by themselves. You should contact me if this happens. Local anaesthetic is used for the uncovering. A few sutures may be required.

The Superstructure

Once the implant is uncovered it may be necessary to wait for a number of weeks for the tissues to heal before the crowns or bridges are started. It may also be necessary to provisionally load your implants for a number of months (especially in full arch cases) before the final restorations are placed.

Maintenance

You will be seen 3 months after the implants are uncovered to check their "health" and clean them, and thereafter every 6 months. An appointment will be made to see you immediately after the superstructure are attached. They need to be scaled with special plastic scalers. The cleaner you keep them, the healthier they will be. You will be shown how to maintain them.

Long term studies have been following implants for than 20 years now and the success rate is reported at over 90%.

Please feel free to contact your Dentist at any stage if you have questions.