

Implant Informed Consent

As explained to me by the dentist and staff, I have chosen implants over other options to:

- restore missing teeth
- support a bridge
- support an upper full denture
- support a lower full denture
- support an upper partial denture
- support a lower partial denture

You also may require:

- A sinus lift. This is a separate procedure with a separate fee.
- A bone graft. This is a separate procedure with a separate fee.

WHAT ARE IMPLANTS AND WHY ARE THEY DESIRABLE?

- Implants are hollow metal cylinders that serve as a substitute for the roots of your teeth.
- They can anchor individual teeth, a bridge or a denture (full or partial).
- Implants are the best alternative available for tooth replacement.
- They are the best alternative to stabilize bridges/dentures.

When a tooth is extracted, the bone level around the missing tooth begins to shrink. Implants act like a tooth's natural roots, and help maintain that bone level.

WHAT STEPS ARE INVOLVED?

Three steps are involved: (1) The implants are submerged into the jaw bone and allowed to integrate in the bone. (2) An "attachment" or custom abutment later is inserted into the hollow implant cylinder and rises above the gum line. (3) A crown, bridge or denture is cemented on the attachment(s). Some time these steps are combined, or all of them can occur at the same time.

A specialist or general dentist can place the implants. My doctor is a general dentist.

WHY DO IMPLANTS SOMETIME FAIL?

- Sometimes, no one knows. No one can predict the human body with certainty.
- Infection. Antibiotics must be taken strictly as prescribed to minimize this risk.
- Diabetes or other diseases which restrict blood flow to the jaw bone and tissues.
- Smoking (especially in the first month) can double the failure rate.
- Poor bone density, which only can be estimated by x-rays.
- Poor oral hygiene. Regular dental visits are critical to long-term success.
- Grinding or clenching your teeth. You must wear a night guard.
- Movement or motion. Implants should not be wiggled, pulled or pushed.

If implants fail, they must be removed. Sometimes, new implants can be placed in the same general area, and at other times they cannot. Bone grafting or other procedures (which involve separate fees) may be needed. In rare cases, implants removal actually can make your ability to wear crowns, bridges and dentures worse than when you began.

WHAT IS THE SUCCESS RATE?

In general and excluding diabetes, smoking and other complications:

- upper implants have a 90% success rate (defined as integrating into the bone)
- lower implants have a 95% success rate (defined as integrating into the bone)

WILL ANESTHESIA BE NEEDED?

Yes. The type of anesthesia selected by your dentist is:

- Local anesthesia (injected by a needle)

- Oral sedation (a pill or pills that temporarily will cause memory loss)
- IV sedation (a needle is inserted into your arm and you will be unconscious)

POSSIBLE RISKS AND COMPLICATIONS

Because of the wide differences among people and dental conditions, a successful outcome cannot be predicted or obtained. Sometimes, unexpected results occur. Here are some of the more common (but not all) complications for implants:

- Pain, swelling, bruising, infection, prolonged bleeding.
- Permanent or temporary numbness to the cheeks, lips, tongue, teeth or gums.
- Openings into the sinus (when upper implants are placed).
- Rejection of the implant by your body.

Should these or other adverse symptoms occur, call the office immediately. Do not wait until the next scheduled appointment.

Like all medical and dental surgeries, there are NO GUARANTEES that implants will be successful. The hope is that the implants will last a lifetime, but there is no accurate way to predict longevity in any particular person.

Knowing that these risk exist and might happen to me, I consent to allow this dentist to place _____ implants in these areas:

Upper jaw # _____

Lower jaw # _____

I have been given the opportunity to ask questions about implants and am fully satisfied with the answers I received. yes no

I would like a copy of this form. yes no

Patient Name

Patient Signature

Today's Date

Doctor