

Dental Implant Information

What are dental implants?

Dental implants are artificial tooth roots, which are placed into your jaw. They are made of products that are compatible with the human body. Implants are the best and most modern treatment method for people who have lost a tooth or teeth. Crowns, bridges (fixed dentures) or dentures (fixed removal dentures) can be fixed to these artificial roots.

What are the advantages of implants?

Implants are an extremely comfortable solution for the replacement of individual teeth, for the bridging of larger gaps and for the fixing of dentures if you have lost your teeth. Dentures using implants have many medical, functional and aesthetic advantages thus giving you a natural feeling as if you are chewing, eating and laughing with your own teeth. Nothing can slip or fall out and no one notices that your teeth are artificial. This means an enormous increase in quality of life. The medical benefits are also extensive. There's no grinding on healthy teeth, implants can also replace individual teeth. When implants are inserted soon after the removal of teeth they prevent any dreaded bone recession. Every tooth can basically be replaced by an implant.

What has to be taken into consideration before the implantation?

Dental implantations can be carried out after growth has been completed. There is no upward age limit if you are in good general health. Implants can be fixed to the bone immediately after the tooth has been removed or after a few weeks. Inflamed gums and caries should be treated before the artificial tooth roots are fixed.

What is the treatment procedure?

First of all we draw up an individual therapy plan for you with your dentist. The implantation is normally carried out under local anaesthetic. Semi-sleep or general anaesthetics are also possible, if required. Implants can be fixed immediately after tooth extraction, or if medical necessary, weeks/months later. Depending on your wishes and medical necessities we can offer you all present implantation methods. A "bed" is prepared for the implants with special drills in which the implant is then fixed. We differentiate between a one-phase treatment, during which the implants immediately come out of the mucous membrane and the two-phase treatment, during which the artificial roots are planted underneath the mucous membrane and then exposed in a further minor operation prior to your receiving treatment for dentures. The period for the implants to heal could last between 2 and 6 months depending on the quality of the bone. Under specific prerequisites dentures can be fitted after just a few hours or a few days later. We then speak of immediate pressure. In each case we recommend a 6 week "bone training" after having dentures, i.e. a gentle increase in the chewing pressure starting off with soft food and progressing to normal food after 6 weeks.

How many implants are necessary?

4 implants are standard in a jaw with no teeth for fixed removable dentures. A solution with 2 implants is also possible, but offers less stability and worse long-term prognoses. If the denture should be fixed then at least 8 implants are recommended in the upper jaw and 6 implants are recommended for the lower jaw.

Is it possible to have dentures during the healing period?

A provisional solution is possible for people who have lost a tooth or all their teeth. It is however important that no (chewing) pressure is put on the implants or other manipulation carried out (i.e. with the fingers or tongue) during the healing phase. In complicated cases you should not wear dentures for a few days after the operation.

Which complications can occur in individual cases?

Implantation remains a routine operation in the hands of an experienced surgeon even in complicated cases. As with every operation there can be post-bleeding, infections and wound healing disorders. Implants into the lower jaw can sometimes cause an irritation to the nerves in the lower jaw with a short-term feeling of numbness in the lower lips and chin area. The rate of implant loss is extremely low when you put your trust in our hands. Recurring infections, damage to the neighbouring teeth and permanent nerve damage especially in the lower jaw area is extremely rare, but has been described in reference works throughout the world.

What should I pay attention to?

You should not smoke for at least 2 weeks prior to and after the operation. Smoking can also have a detrimental effect on the healing process afterwards. You should discuss taking your previous medication with us at your consultation. Swelling can occur after the operation. Any pain occurring can be relieved by painkillers. You should not do any sport for 1-2 weeks. Avoid strenuous sports activities, going to the sauna and extreme climatic changes for 4 weeks.

When is bone regeneration necessary?

The regeneration of the bone volume is necessary when the height and width of the jawbone is not sufficiently present. The sinus cavity often has to be lifted back to its original position if your bones in the side teeth area of the upper jaw are too narrow. We can offer you all the methods available at present depending on your wishes and the medical necessity.

How successful are implants?

Implants can last a lifetime. Over 95% of artificial dental roots are still in perfect condition after 10 years, as scientific tests have proven. Thus the life expectancy of implants is the same as for natural teeth. Pre-requisite is taking continual, careful care of your implants and having regular check-ups at our clinic and at your dentist's. The global success of this treatment can also be seen by the annual increase in the rate of dentures being put in by approx. 20%.

Is the treatment expensive?

Our healing costs plan refers to our surgical services. You will receive a quote from your dentist for all dental services. State health insurances do not usually reimburse you for implants while private insurances may possibly reimburse you part of the costs. The costs are dependent on the number of implants, implant type and the level of difficulty of the operation. You will however receive high quality dentures in all cases, which will greatly increase your quality of life. Dental implants provide the best service at present in regard to cost-benefits due to their long life and medical, functional and aesthetic advantages. Dentures or bridges are regarded as compromises due to their many disadvantages and often more expensive than implants. Dental implants keep for decades when treated well. Implants are therefore viewed by experts the world over as the best possible medical solution and especially most economical method of treatment over the long-term at present for people who have lost a tooth or all of their teeth. The annual check-ups at our clinic provide an important safety factor, too. We charge approx EUR 20 for these check-ups (excluding x-rays) and EUR 6 for each implant.

5 year GUARANTEE on our treatment: Should you lose your dental implants within the first 5 years then we will replace them with new implants (only exception: traumatically-related loss of implant). Prerequisites:

- 1) Our invoice is paid in due time by you.
- 2) You keep to the recommended check-up dates.
- 3) An oral hygiene treatment is carried out by your dentist at least twice a year.
- 4) Implant control checks are carried out once a year in our clinic or by your dentist.

Please arrange for an appointment or get in contact with us if you are interested in this treatment. We would be happy to advise you and deal with any questions you might have!