

About Dental Implants



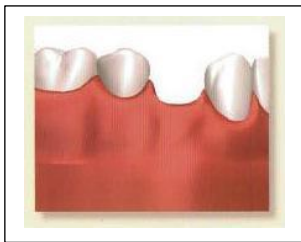
Options for replacing missing teeth

Losing teeth create gaps. These affect effective chewing, speech and may affect the appearance of the smile. There are a few options to dealing with the dental gap.

- i Nothing – leaving the gap open
- ii Dentures – removable plate ranging from one tooth to a full arch denture.
- iii Bridgework – Fixed appliance held in place by standing teeth adjacent to the gap
- iv Dental implants – Small titanium screws fitted into the jawbone where the missing tooth used to be then have a crown or bridge fitted depending on the number of missing teeth.

I GENERAL INFORMATION

You are most likely reading this because you are considering replacing missing teeth. A bit about dental implants. These are small metal screws made of titanium fitted into the jaw bones to replace the root aspects of missing teeth. These screws will then have attached a crown or bridge depending on the size of the gap.



Teeth are usually lost due to various reasons, the commonest being gum disease and tooth decay.

Dental implants are fitted into the jaws usually under simple local anaesthetic injection. After healing takes place, a crown, bridge or denture is fitted onto the implant(s) via abutment post(s)

Placement of dental implants is a simple and straightforward procedure that usually takes about 20 – 30 minutes under local anaesthesia. This may also be done with additional intravenous sedation in anxious patients.

Prior to the placement of dental implants, you would have had a detailed consultation with your implant surgeon to see if you are suitable for the procedure. For more information on this, please [click here](#).

II CONSIDERING DENTAL IMPLANTS

Advantages – High success rate – 99%

- Tend to last a lifetime hence cheapest option long-term
- Most similar to natural teeth
- No damage to adjacent teeth
- Prevents loss of bone and gum recession

Disadvantages – Not all patients are suitable for dental implant surgery

- Initial cost is relatively high
- Involves minor surgery which some patients have aversion to, although painless
- Some patients may need bone or gum augmentation before, during or after implant placement.
- The procedure may take a few months to complete.
- Though highly successful, there are no guarantees for success.

Possible complications – These are thankfully rare if proper patient assessment and planning, good surgical technique, suitable materials and dental lab work. On the part of the patient adequate care must be taken, good oral hygiene kept and regular visits to the implant surgeon or dentist for assessment of the dental implants. Nature as a third party also plays a major role. Despite all of the above things could still go wrong.

Possible Early complications – Pain, swelling, bruising, infection, bleeding.

Short term – Crown / bridge off, loosened post with spinning crown, infection

Long term – Gum recession, loose implant, loose abutment post, crown falling off, infection

Rare complications – fractured implant, fractured post.

Anaesthesia during Treatment

Most cases of dental implant surgery are done under **local anaesthetic** which is administered by injection into the gum. This is similar to when one is having a filling or dental extraction. With the right type, dose and strength of anaesthetic and given adequate time to allow the anaesthetic to work, this is extremely effective.

For patients who have a dental phobia or who feel anxious towards surgery, the treatment could be carried out under additional intravenous sedation. This involves an injection of a sedative into the arm or back of the hand. This makes the patient very sleepy but not unconscious. The sedative gets rid of anxiety but has no anaesthetic effect so a local anaesthetic would still be necessary. It is very important that a patient have a pre-assessment at a prior appointment before having intravenous sedation. There are several Do's and Don'ts that need to be considered before IV sedation is administered

III Stages involved

1. Consultation

History, Examination, X-rays, Photos, Study models.

2. Implant Ordered (25% Deposit)

1 week interval

3. Implant Surgery Done (25% Deposit)

4 -12 weeks interval

4. Impression Taking (25% Deposit)

1 – 3 weeks interval

5. Fitting Post & Crown (25% Balance)

Treatment completed

6. Review In 6 Months.

May be done by your own dentist



IV Treatment Planning



The Process – Simple, straightforward case of one missing tooth

Consultation, scans, treatment planning, surgery subject to consent, placement of crown, follow-up appointments

It must be mentioned that just like natural teeth, no option is guaranteed to work and both your surgeon and you, the patient has to provide good care to these options for long-term success. Your dentist will go through all these options in detail with you and help you choose which option is most suitable with you including what is involved in achieving this, possible complications, duration of treatment and cost. It is very important that after consultation you should ask any questions that come to mind before you start your treatment.

2 of the **commonest questions** we get asked by patients are: How much is it going to hurt and how much does it cost. I have been placing dental implants since 2001 and am given you my answers from experience.

Are Dental Implants painful?

Once you are properly numbed up with local anaesthetic the procedure is totally painless. It is important that you are given enough anaesthetic and enough time is given for the anaesthetic to become effective. This is usually less than 5 minutes. The surgeon would then test to confirm you are numb enough. If not, the surgeon would simply give you more anaesthetic and wait again.

Patients who are anxious or have a dental phobia would best be treated under intravenous sedation with local anaesthesia. To read more about Intravenous sedation, please [click here](#). For comparison sake, it is more uncomfortable having a tooth taken out than having a dental implant placed.

How much do dental Implants cost?

There is a very wide range in the cost of dental implant treatment. This depends on a variety of factors such as

- * the brand of the implant system and its complexity,
- * other procedures to be carried out before and after the implant is placed,
- * the experience of the surgeon
- * The location of the practice (most expensive in London, central more expensive than Greater)
- * If based on 3rd party finance (0% finance very popular, also good idea to look out for deals)

For simplicity sake, this write-up is based on the cost of placement of a single dental implant

Breakdown of cost where applicable

1. Consultation including standard X-rays and digital photography – (Initial consultation free in our practice)	£150
2. 3-D scan and intra-Oral impressions	£200 (circa)
3. Surgical template	£200)
4. Placement of dental implant (including surgery, temp crown and follow-ups)	£1500
5. Placement of post abutment and crown	£500
6. Follow-Up appointments up to 6 months	Free

Ball-point figure, expect to spend around **£2000** from start to finish. Also expect to allow **3 – 6 months** for effective healing. It is possible that each case being unique, may require more work such as bone or gum grafting, orthodontic work and/ or root canal treatment of other teeth etc. High quality crowns such as ceramic abutment posts and ceramic crowns in the dental implant may also appreciably increase cost. A very simple and straightforward case could cost as little as £1500

Image Implant / Abutment / crown

image Implant / Ceramic abutment / Ceramic crown

After you have had your consultation and scans done, your implant surgeon will give you a written treatment plan including all expected costs. It is possible, though not common for this treatment plan to change. Implant dentistry like all surgical procedures is not an exact science.

Do Dental Implants always work?

Dental implant placement has a very high success rate of 98 – 99%. This means 1 -2 implants of every 100 is expected to fail. When an implant successfully fuses to the jawbone, we say it takes. In dental jargon we call this Osseo-integration. A failed implant is one that has not taken. Implant surgeons classify placed dental implants as successful, surviving or failed. Failed implants become wobbly and eventually fall out. With good planning and surgery and good care by the patient, this should rarely occur. Sometimes with all care taken, nature could simply say “no” and the implant would not take. With extensive research going on worldwide, dental implant therapy continues to produce evermore promising results. If the implant, post or crown is defect, this would be replaced free of charge. Problems with the gums or surrounding jawbone may incur extra cost especially if the patient has not honoured follow-up appointments

V About your Implant Surgeon

Dr Wale Towolawi, BDS, FDSRCS (Eng), MBBS (Lond) PG Dip Clin Derm (Lond)
Specialist Oral Surgeon, Dental Implant surgeon, I.V. sedationist



My Name is **Dr Wale Towolawi**, I am a specialist Oral surgeon registered on General Dentistry & Oral surgery specialist registers with the General Dental Council, U.K. (No 67657). I qualified as a dentist in 1985 in Lagos and specialised in the U.K from the Royal College of Surgeons in London, UK in 1992 after working in several hospitals in the U.K. I went on to study Medicine in Imperial College, University of London where I got my medical degree in 1998. I studied Implant dentistry in Old Trafford Manchester in 2000 and have been placing Dental implants since 2000. For nervous patients I have been offering, conscious sedation since 1990.

My main areas of interest are Oral surgery (surgical aspects of dentistry), dental Implants, IV sedation and smile makeovers.

Outside dentistry, I enjoy Jazz, Soul and Bassanova music, Information technology (computers, web designing, 3-D designing, programming), movies, art, reading, travelling, learning, gardening, DIY, plane-watching, tennis and basketball. I enjoy spending time with my family with which there is never a dull moment!

VI YOUR NOTES

(Pls feel free to ask any questions or express any inquiries you may have)

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