



PENTHOUSE DENTAL

941 HENLEY STREET, FEARIE GLEN 0043, PRETORIA
(CNR. OLYMPUS DRIVE AND HENLEY STREET)
TEL (012) 991 5885 / 7080

Our practice Moto

Every patient is a father, mother, son or daughter of a loved one.

What are dental implants?

A dental implant is an artificial tooth root constructed out of a high quality titanium. The titanium surface of modern dental implants is treated and/or coated with substances that allow it to integrate with surrounding bone (osteointegration).



Evidence of dental implants (made from bamboo sticks) date back to more than 4000 years ago. The modern titanium dental implants were first used by Bothe et al. in the 1940's and this system was later refined by Branemark in the 1950's. Modern technology has led to numerous improvements of the original designs resulting in as high as 99.7% success rates using modern implants.

Who benefits from Dental Implants?

Dental implants are currently deemed as the Gold Standard in the replacement of lost teeth. The term "Gold Standard" implies that it is currently the most predictable method of tooth replacement.

Dental implants may benefit the following individuals:

Patients that has lost single or multiple teeth.

Patients that struggle to get used to full upper and/ or lower dentures.

Patients that was undergone cancer surgery to support dentures, artificial ears, noses and other body parts (treatment must be undergone in specialist centers).

Are Dental implants for me?

It is very important to acknowledge the limitations of dental implants before embarking on such treatment. Dental Implants must always be done AFTER all other dental problems have been attended too, hence as part of a comprehensive TREATMENT PLAN. Dental Implants are as susceptible to gum disease as your natural teeth and Implants placed in a mouth where teeth are lost due to tooth decay or gum disease will subsequently yield that Implant in an unfavourable position and will necessitate further implants what could have been prevented by proper planning.

What is the process to get an implant?

The complete treatment duration, from the time it is decided to remove a diseased tooth to the time a new crown is in place, is approximately 8 months.

- **Appointment 1:**
A comprehensive examination is done to determine:
Your expectations
Establish all the current systemic and oral problems
Make a diagnosis
Examination
X-Rays/ CBCT scan
Photos
Establish a treatment plan
Get acceptance of the treatment plan.
Extraction of offending tooth/teeth with/ without an immediate bone graft (depending of treatment plan) can be performed that same day. There is then a 12 to 16 weeks healing period after such extraction in which time all the other dental problems need to be corrected.
- **Appointment 2: (12 weeks later)**
Dental Implant surgery. During this visit the Implant will be submerged into the bone and allowed to heal for a 12-16 weeks period.
- **Appointment 3: (12-16 weeks later)**
Exposure of the implant. During this visit the Implant will again be exposed to the mouth to allow the insertion of a soft tissue healing abutment. This is kept in place for at least 2 weeks to allow the gums to attain an aesthetic shape.
- **Appointment 4: (2-4 weeks later)**
Impression taking. An impression is taken by your dentist to allow a dental laboratory to manufacture a crown that will either be screwed or cemented onto the Implant.
- **Appointment 5: (1 week later)**
YOU GET YOUR NEW TOOTH!!

How is the surgery done?

After the anaesthetist has put you to sleep (where relevant) the dentist/ oral surgeon will inject you with local anaesthetic which serves to limit the bleeding during the operation and help with pain after the operation. He/ she will then cut open the gums to expose the underlying bone. The correct position of the implant is then established clinically and/or with the aid of a surgical template. A series of drills are then used to create a "bed" for the implant. Depending on the width and depth of the bone available the surgeon might opt to augment the existing bone with artificial or some of your own bone. The implant is then slowly twisted into the bone. The head of the implant is then covered with a screw and the gums are stitched up to entirely cover the implant for the duration of the healing period (12-16 weeks).

Can Dental Implants fail?

YES!

One study that included 3578 dental implants reported an overall failure (rate) of 126 (3.5%). This study also reported that no clinical cause could be found for such implant failures in 75% of cases.

Causes for Early Failures:

Early Implant failure refers to those implants that have failed to “fuse” to the patient’s bone during the healing period BEFORE the crown is put on. The above study reported that 88.2% of all failures occur before loading (with a crown).

Poor quality bone

Systemic illness (Diabetes ect)

Bone disease (osteoporosis, osteoradionecrosis)

Smoking

Infection

Overheated bone

Poor positioning

Over preparation of bone

Idiopathic (No cause can be found) 75%

Failure of osteointegration

Neurosensory or bloodvessel damage (As below)

The most alarming complication is a persistent numbness/ stinging pain/ tingling of the tongue and/or lower lip (neurosensory dysfunction). Of those patients that have sustained such an injury, approximately half thereof will be permanent. The other half of such injuries are retrospectively diagnosed as neuropraxia (temporary nerve injury) and full sensation are generally restored 6-8 weeks after the operation.

Late Failures:

Late implant failures consist of failed implant treatment after the crown had been put on.

Parafunctional habits:

Bruxism (teeth grinding)

High biting forces

Screw or implant body fracture/ break.

Peri-implant gum disease

What happens if an implant fails to osteointegrate (fuse) to my jaw?

The cause of failure is determined. The implant is removed and the bone cavity is filled with bone and left to heal for 12 weeks after which a new implant is placed (generally without additional cost depending on the cause). The initial cause of failure is managed during subsequent attempt.

Follow-up and aftercare related to dental implants:

Patients are expected to strictly follow the oral health instructions provided by the dentist. Flossing daily around ALL teeth, including the implant is non-negotiable. Three monthly oral hygienist visits are mandatory for the first 2 years after treatment. Thereafter biannual visits to the oral hygienist are sufficient providing that the patient maintains proper oral hygiene.

What is a successful Dental Implant?

An implant that has successfully integrated/ "fused" with the surrounding jaw bone i.e. Osteointegration AND carries a working and aesthetically pleasing crown.

What is expected of me after the operation?

The following steps must be taken to ensure an uneventful healing:

Softly bite of cotton rolls' gauze for 20-30 minutes to ensure the bleeding stops.

If bleeding persists, bite on a damp "English" tea bag for 10-15 minutes.

If the bleeding still persists: **CONCACT THE PRACTICE.**

NB! Maintain good oral hygiene (brush softly morning AND evening and floss daily).

Rinse your mouth with mouthrinse as prescribed **AFTER** tooth brushing.

Gently rinse your mouth with luke-warm salt water after all meals.

Take you medicines are prescribed.

Eat soft food with an even texture (ex. canned fruit with cold custard/ ice cream or luke-warm butternut soup with white bread).

Ice packs (although unproven) might help with pain and swelling. Apply for 10-15 min a few times per day or alternatively nibble on an ice cube.

Report any suspicious symptoms **ASAP.**

If you have any unanswered questions or need advice before or after the procedure, please do not hesitate to contact the practice.

God Bless you.