

FURTHER INFORMATION: IMPLANTS

1. The length and size of implants inserted will vary depending on the quality and quantity of the existing bone and position of nerves, position of adjacent teeth, nasal passages and sinus cavities. In some cases, inadequate quality and quantity of bone may prevent any implants from being placed at all. This latter scenario is very unlikely as I have assessed your jaw bone for suitability and there is every indication at this stage that there is sufficient bone present. Placement is under local anaesthesia.
2. In rare instances implants can fail due to infection, rejection, trauma or fracture of the titanium or other causes and must be removed. This is very unusual.
3. The titanium implant, porcelain crown, abutments and/or screws may loosen, fracture or be damaged in such a way to necessitate the repair, or loss of part of the metal implant system. This is an unusual occurrence.
4. When implants are placed it is sometimes necessary to fill small voids where there is slightly insufficient bone present with a bone grafting material. We routinely use a granular bone material for this, which is world-renowned and used by many major US and European Universities. It however is Bovine in origin (from cows) and if this is a concern please discuss this and we can use an alternative. When bone grafting takes place we often use a very thin dissolvable collagen membrane (of porcine origin) which holds the grafted material in place. This membrane sits under the gum and dissolves slowly without you being aware that it is there.
5. Proper hygiene is critical to the future success of the implants and must be maintained. Like natural teeth, implants may be affected by lack of hygiene and can actually be lost due to neglect. Adherence to regular maintenance by way of hygienist visits and check ups is imperative.
6. Complications following surgery include among other things pain, swelling, limited jaw opening, bleeding, infection, sinus opening, nasal infection, swelling and inflammation at the fixture site. Complications are unusual. Most people find that implant placement is less unpleasant and less painful than a tooth extraction.
7. We require as much notice as possible if you are unable to attend for an appointment.
8. If you are a smoker we would urge you to stop as it has a significant adverse effect on the success rate of dental implants.
9. When dealing with the human body no absolute guarantees are possible. As such it is possible that the treatment plan may have to be altered. In the event of this happening we will always keep you informed of available options and we will aim to keep any additional costs as low as possible.