

Are dental implants right for me?

Your questions answered



360° IMPLANTOLOGY
—MORE THAN IMPLANTS—

bredent uk





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With amazing improvements in the manufacture of titanium dental implants, the process is predictable, painless and quick. For my patients, dental implants are the next best thing to natural teeth, providing life-changing confidence, chewing efficiency and longevity.

Dr Julian Chen
New Street Dental Care



Dental implants – an introduction

If you have failing or missing teeth or a denture you struggle to tolerate, dental implant treatment might be the right choice for you. Dental implants have helped many people regain the ability to eat, talk, laugh and smile with confidence and comfort, boosting their self-esteem and quality of life. Whether you are wearing a conventional denture, missing one tooth, several teeth or missing all the teeth in a jaw, dental implants can offer a strong, stable and long-lasting replacement.

This guide provides an overview about dental implants, how they work, their many benefits and answers to commonly asked questions. If you are considering dental implant treatment, you should speak to a dentist at the earliest opportunity. Each patient's needs and circumstances are unique. An implant dentist can assess your suitability, provide a personalised treatment plan and address any questions you have about the procedure.

What is a dental implant?

A dental implant is a permanent, artificial fixture placed in the jaw to replace failing or missing tooth roots. Implant therapy is the only fully fixed dental treatment available that can replace the lost natural tooth and its root. Usually made from high-grade titanium or zirconia, a tooth implant looks like a screw and is used to support replacement teeth, such as single crowns, bridges and even full dentures.

How does a dental implant work?

The implant is inserted into the jaw and left to fuse with the jawbone. This produces a secure bond between the tooth implant and the surrounding bone, a process called osseointegration. Dental implants create a solid anchor and supportive root-like structure providing stability and comfort. They look, feel and function just like natural teeth.

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Having my implant fitted is just like having a real tooth again. I can eat anything I want without even thinking about it.

Lindsey D



What are the benefits of implants?

Dental implants offer many advantages:

Confident smile – If you have a visible gap when you smile, you may feel self-conscious. Dental implants can help you regain your confidence by restoring a healthy, natural-looking smile.

Long lasting – Dental implants can last for many years with good oral hygiene, regular check-ups and professional maintenance.

Full chewing power – Dental implants function like your natural teeth, enabling you to eat all your favourite foods.

Bone loss prevention – Implants are designed to integrate with bone and become part of your anatomy. They help to prevent bone shrinkage (resorption), preserve your facial profile and protect the adjacent natural teeth. By restoring chewing function, implants stimulate and exert natural forces on the jawbone to keep it healthy.

No damage to teeth – Dental implants do not need to be attached to adjacent teeth. No preparation or shaving down of healthy tooth structure is required, such as with a conventional bridge.

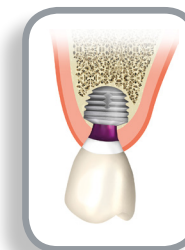
Improved speech – Pronouncing some words can be difficult if you have lost certain teeth. Dental implants allow you to speak normally without the worry that a denture might become loose and slip.

Secure, comfortable and convenient teeth – Implant-supported restorations will not irritate gums or produce sore spots. You don't have to worry about applying adhesives to keep them securely in place.

Unimpaired taste – Food tastes much better with an implant-retained denture, as your taste buds will no longer be covered by an acrylic plate.

Which treatment is right for me?

Depending on your individual needs, you may be offered one of the following options:

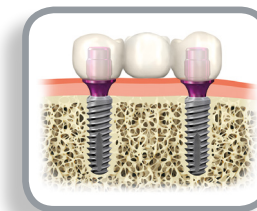


An implant-supported single crown

Suitable for one missing tooth

Benefits:

- Prevents lateral movement (drifting) of adjacent teeth into the space left by the gap
- No overeruption of the opposite tooth

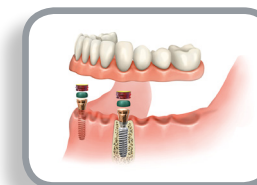


Implant-supported bridge

For several missing teeth

Benefits:

- No need to remove prosthesis to clean
- No shaving down of adjacent healthy teeth



Denture secured with implants

Using implants to secure, but not support, a denture is one of the most cost-effective ways of replacing all the teeth in one jaw. Implant-stabilised dentures rest on the gum but usually have two or four locator abutments to hold them in place. The attachments work in a similar way to press stud fasteners on clothes.

- Functions like a conventional denture but without horizontal movement
- Cheaper than an implant-supported fixed or removable full arch prosthesis
- Prosthesis can easily be removed for cleaning when necessary

Implant-supported full arch bridge for a whole jaw of teeth

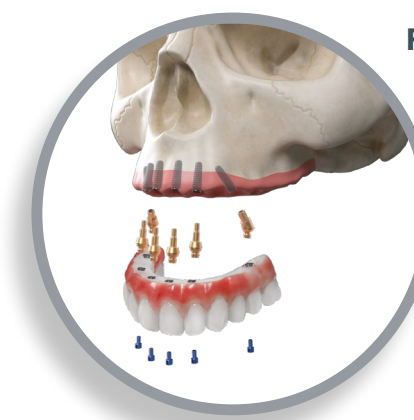
The following options are supported by implants, not the gums:

Implant-supported permanently fixed bridge

- The gold standard option for a patient with no teeth
- Only removable by a dental professional, for cleaning or removing trapped oral debris
- Choice of bridge material depending on budget or clinical requirements

Acrylic or composite bridge – supported by four implants on locators

- Combines the security of a permanent attachment with the convenience of removable dentures
- Solid foundation for natural chewing function, but easily removable for cleaning



Fixed teeth in a day

Some patients may be suitable for a process often referred to as 'same day teeth'. A whole jaw or mouth of missing or failing teeth can be replaced and fitted with dental implants and new teeth in a single visit. The treatment can be quickly and effectively achieved with the 'SKY fast & fixed' therapy, a particular feature of the bredent SKY implant system.

Am I suitable for dental implants?

Are there any age limitations?

There is no upper age limit to having dental implants. In most cases you can be a suitable candidate, provided you are healthy and able to undergo a routine dental procedure. Young people should wait to have implants because their bone tissue is not fully developed and their jaw is still growing.

Do I need my oral health checked?

You must be in good general health and have a healthy mouth with no untreated tooth decay or periodontal (gum) disease. Any problems will need to be resolved before implants are placed. Your oral hygiene will also be checked by your dentist, as you will need to keep your teeth and dental implants clean.

Will certain medical conditions affect my eligibility?

Informing your dentist of any pre-existing medical conditions is important before proceeding with implant treatment. Uncontrolled diabetes, blood clotting disorders, cancer, problems with the immune system or drug abuse need to be carefully assessed before the final decision is made.

Can I have implants if I smoke?

Smoking can adversely affect the success of your implants. It is also one of the major causes of tooth loss. Nicotine in smoke constricts blood vessels and reduces blood flow and oxygen to the soft tissues, which can affect the immune response. This slows the process of healing and impacts on the long-term health of gum and bone. Your dentist will review your smoking habit before deciding if you are a suitable candidate.

Have I got enough bone in my jaw?

One of the key requirements for dental implant treatment is having sufficient bone in your jaw. A solid, reliable base is needed to anchor and support the implant. If you don't have enough bone, you may be able to have it built up. Your dentist will choose a bone augmentation method appropriate to you and the type, location and number of implants to be used.

How long will treatment take?

The length of treatment varies depending on the type of implant procedure, the number of implants placed, their location in the mouth and whether bone grafting is required. The surgical procedure to place the implants may only take a few hours but the entire treatment plan can take several

months to complete. Treatment periods will be longer if bone grafting or other preparatory procedures are needed. The permanent replacement crowns are generally fitted three to nine months after the dental implants are placed.

What should I do immediately after treatment?

How well you care for your mouth in the first few days and weeks after implant surgery will help ensure successful healing, minimise discomfort and give your dental implants the best chance for long-term success.

I lost all my front teeth years ago due to a sports injury and wore a metal denture until my dentist told me I could have implants. I wished I had them done years ago as I can eat so very well, smile with confidence and never have to push my teeth back in.

Tony S

How much do dental implants cost?

Each patient's requirements will be different, so costs can vary considerably. It's recommended that you discuss your needs with a dentist who places implants. After a clinical assessment you will be provided with a fully costed treatment plan. However, cost is only one of the factors when deciding if implants are right for you. You should also think about the improvement in quality of life and the long-term health benefits. Dental implants are an investment well worth considering.

Are finance options available?

Dental implant treatment is not usually covered by dental insurance, or available on the NHS outside of exceptional circumstances. Most dentists will offer a payment plan if you need to spread the cost. Ask your dentist or treatment coordinator for details.

Your implant team will be on hand to answer any questions or concerns. Please also refer to our Post-Treatment Care Guide for more details.

Your implant journey*



Initial
exploratory
consultation



Full clinical
assessment
and quotation



Implant(s) and
provisional
crown/bridge
placed



Healing and
fusing with
jawbone



Fitting of
permanent
tooth/teeth



Ongoing
routine
hygiene
programme

*Treatment pathway may vary depending on your clinical needs



Frequently asked questions

How long do dental implants last?

Dental implant technology continues to advance, offering patients improved treatment outcomes, shorter recovery times and longer-term success. Implants are manufactured using the innovative materials of titanium and zirconia which are both biocompatible. Dental implants are designed to be a permanent replacement but they need to be properly looked after. This will help to minimise the risk of complications, such as peri-implantitis, and keep your restorations looking good and functioning for many years to come.

Is implant treatment painful?

Dental implant treatment is usually carried out under local anaesthetic. The anaesthesia is similar to that given for tooth extraction. It completely blocks any pain during and immediately after surgery. Many patients have reported how little discomfort they experienced during and after the procedure. Over-the-counter pain relief is usually all that is required during the following days.

How is bone evaluated before implant placement?

A clinical examination of your mouth and radiographs will allow a dentist to assess the bone. Cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) may be used to evaluate and measure the amount of bone in the jaw by generating a 3D image. It provides information such as bone height, width, density and shape.

What are 'teeth in a day'?

Fixed teeth in a day, sometimes referred to as same day teeth, is a treatment technique to restore a whole jaw of failing or missing teeth with dental

implants and replacement teeth in a single visit. A minimum of four dental implants are placed into the top or bottom jaw. Temporary, natural-looking teeth are fitted to the implants later that day (immediate loading), which remain in place while the implants integrate with the jawbone. A permanent set of teeth is then fitted three to six months later, after the healing period.

How should I care for my implants?

Tooth implants must be cared for in the same way as natural teeth by daily brushing, flossing and attending regular check-ups. After placement, it will be your responsibility to practise good oral hygiene every day for the optimum health of your implants.

I only have a small budget – should I go abroad for my implant treatment?

Some patients might consider going abroad for tooth implant treatment because they think it will save them money. However, the plan could turn out to be a false economy. Travelling abroad for aftercare appointments is likely to require more time and expense.

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If I knew how straightforward
the whole process of getting
implants and new teeth
fitted was, I'd have done
it years ago.

James C

Do I need a referral from my dentist?

Unlike some more specialised medical treatments, you don't need a referral. If you are thinking about dental implants, you can directly contact an implant dentist to ask a question or schedule a consultation.

What next?

We hope you find this resource useful. Further specific, personalised information should be sought before proceeding with any course of treatment. Early consultation with a dental professional is advisable. Talk to your dentist to find out more about the life-changing benefits of dental implants.

Patient notes



Glossary of useful terms

Term	Definition
Abutment	Connects the implant to the crown or bridge
Bone augmentation	Describes a variety of procedures to build up or remodel bone
Bone grafting	When jawbone is deficient, natural or synthetic bone can be used to increase the amount of bone in that area
Bone resorption	A process which takes place when a tooth has been lost and there is no tooth root left to anchor or stimulate the surrounding bone
Bridge	A device that spans the gap created by one or more missing teeth. Artificial teeth are attached to adjacent natural teeth or dental implants
Clinical assessment/ consultation	A detailed, thorough examination which may involve diagnostic procedures such as X-rays and CT scans
Complete arch	One of the two arches (crescent arrangements of teeth) on the upper or lower jaw
Crown	A restoration that closely replicates the appearance and function of your natural teeth
Delayed loading	The delayed fitting of a replacement tooth after implant treatment, with usually a waiting period of three to six months to allow the gum to heal and implant to integrate
Denture stabilisation	Implants are inserted into the jawbone to anchor the dentures
Edentulous	The medical term for toothless
Immediate implants	When a tooth is removed and an implant is placed immediately into the extraction site
Immediate loading	A one-stage process where a temporary tooth is fitted immediately following implant placement in a new, healing or healed extraction site
Implant placement	A surgical procedure to place implants performed by an implant dentist
Implant-retained denture	A denture which rests on the gum and gains support from the gum but is held in place by implants
Implant-supported crown	A permanent titanium or zirconia root is inserted into the jaw after extraction and a replacement crown attached
Implant-supported denture	A denture supported by and attached to implants
Non-clinical initial consultation	A discussion to consider the options for treating dental problems and decide whether to proceed to a clinical consultation for implants
Osseointegration	A process by which bone heals and fuses around and onto the surface of an implant
Overeruption	When a tooth is extracted and the opposing tooth protrudes into the space left by the gap
Peri-implantitis	An inflammatory disease marked by a bacterial infection and loss of bone around the implant
Restoration	The replacement tooth or teeth attached to an implant with an abutment
Same day teeth	A process where a whole jaw of replacement teeth can be fitted in one day. Using bredent SKY implants, this treatment is known as 'SKY fast & fixed'
Titanium	A biocompatible metal which is not harmful or toxic to the human body; the metal of choice for artificial joints such as hips and other medical devices
Zirconia	A non-metallic alternative biocompatible dental implant material made from oxidised zirconium powder, known for its natural look, white colour and hypoallergenic properties



About bredent UK Limited

bredent UK Limited has earned an enviable reputation for providing dentists and dental technicians with world-class products including SKY dental implants, SKY fast & fixed same day teeth and a range of surgical and restorative components.

SKY implants are developed and manufactured in Germany by bredent medical GmbH & Co.KG and offer the very best in aesthetic and functional solutions for people with missing or failing natural teeth.

Our goal is simple: to improve the oral health of patients worldwide, working in partnership with dental professionals to deliver the highest standards of quality, care and clinical excellence.

Additional resources

bredent-implants.com/patients

bupa.co.uk/dental/dental-care/treatments/dental-implants

click4teeth.com

colgate.com/en-gb/oral-health/implants/what-are-dental-implants

consideringdentalimplants.co.uk

nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-teeth-and-gums/dental-treatments/



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The choice of dental implant treatment and practitioner are a matter between you, your referring dentist and the dentist providing implant treatment. You are strongly advised to seek further information before proceeding.

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