

TREATMENT FOR IMPLANTS

1. The implant process consists of two surgical procedures. During the first procedure, the implants are surgically placed into the bone. The gums tissue will heal in one to two weeks following surgery. The bone will heal slowly over the next several weeks.
2. The implants will integrate or fuse into the bone within a three month period. This is the average integration time. Some patient's implants may require additional time depending on how their treatment is performed.
3. Patients will schedule 2 post-operative appointments. The first appointment is one week following surgery to check the surgical site. The second appointment is 2 weeks following surgery for suture removal. During the next few weeks we will see you periodically to monitor your healing and your implant(s.)
4. The implant surgery is performed in the office, under local anesthesia. Some patients may choose to have oral sedation for their surgery. Depending on your medical history we may request that you see your physician prior to surgery for medical clearance.
5. Pre-operative oral antibiotics are prescribed for successful implant treatment. You will begin taking the antibiotic starting the day before surgery and continue taking until you have finished all the medication. It is required that you take the medication until completed. This is important for integration and healing after surgery.
6. Patients can begin wearing their denture or replacement teeth 2-3 days after surgery. The denture or replacement teeth may require a soft liner a few weeks the your initial healing phase.
7. After the initial bone-healing phase, a second surgical procedure or uncovering will be scheduled to expose the top of the implant. A healing abutment will be placed on the implant. This will allow your general dentist to start the restorative phase for implant crown. Any replacement teeth or temporary appliance will be modified to fit the healing abutments so patients can continue to wear their appliance comfortably.

8. Once the uncovering is completed, you will be referred back to your general dentist to start with impressions for your implant crown. Once the final restoration has been completed our office will schedule an observation appointment to examine the crowns fit on the implant as well as the gum tissue and the supporting bone. One year after initial implant placement, another observation appointment may be scheduled to allow us to check the health of the implant.
9. It is important the patients maintain their implants with regular dental visits. Implants must be properly cleaned and cared for just like natural teeth. Although implants do not decay or become abscessed, the gum tissue and surrounding bone are still vital and need to be kept healthy. We recommend patients schedule a periodontal maintenance appointment with our office at least once a year to show patients how to clean and maintain their implants.
10. We cannot guarantee dental implants. There are reasons why natural teeth fail or are lost. The same may apply to implants. Bone behaves differently in different individuals and your overall health is important. Excessive smoking and drinking along with poor oral hygiene can cause implants to fail. These behaviors have a negative affect on bone and gum tissue, which have a negative affect on implants. Implants have been placed since 1974 and have improved over the years. The success rate is over 95%. In the rare event that an implant should fail prior to the restorative phase, it will be replaced at no charge to the patient.
11. It is important that patients understand the procedures we have presented as well as the alternatives to this treatment. We recommend that you read all the information provided for you. If you have additional questions or would like other literature prior to your surgery, please don't hesitate to call our office.