

A Guide to Implant Dentistry

Missing teeth are more
common than you think



B R I S B A N E
DENTAL IMPLANT
G R O U P

(07) 3244 2400

19 Emlyn Street, Coorparoo, QLD, 4151
www.brisbanedentalimplantgroup.com.au

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The risks of missing teeth

Many people simply do not understand why they should replace a missing tooth

After all, they have another 30+ left; their speech isn't affected; they're eating fine; what's the problem?

The important thing to keep in mind is how your teeth are linked to the rest of your overall health. When you lose a tooth, the bone which is responsible for 'holding' the tooth root (the alveolar bone) starts to gradually dissolve.

This causes two things to happen:

A missing tooth will cause—over time—the teeth around the gap to migrate into the gap. This can cause a misaligned bite, which can go on to cause jaw pain, neck pain and headaches. It can also be a contributing factor in TMD (temporomandibular joint disorder).

As the jawbone material dissolves, a shrunken and prematurely aged appearance can form, and the stability of other teeth is affected.



Missing teeth, gum disease and heart attacks

Studies conducted over the past five years have shown a strong link between oral health and severe health problems.

A leading example of this is gum disease; the leading cause of tooth loss in adults around the world.

Gum disease has also been linked to health problems such as:

- Heart disease/attacks
- Stroke
- Diabetes
- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- Dementia

This link is a result of chronic inflammation and bacteria.

At normal levels, inflammation is healthy; it works to fight off foreign bodies. But too much inflammation can negatively impact your body.

By preventing gum disease, you can lessen your chance of tooth loss.



How do you prevent gum disease?

The easiest way to prevent gum disease is with a regular oral hygiene routine.

This involves brushing your teeth twice a day and flossing once a day—preferably at night.

It also involves eating less sugary snacks and keeping sugary drinks to a minimum. We also recommend drinking sugary drinks through a straw to minimise the impact of sugar on your teeth.

Regular trips to your dentist are also strongly recommended to ensure the continued health of your teeth and gums. How often you visit the dentist will depend on:

- The health of your teeth and gums
- If you have any dental work such as crowns, bridges or dental implants
- Your eating and drinking habits

Of course, there are reasons for tooth loss other than gum disease. This can include injury, trauma or ageing.



In the first year after losing a tooth, there is a 25% decrease in the width of the bone

This is a key reason dentists are more inclined to save your natural tooth, rather than carry out an extraction.

It's one of the reasons why root canal therapy is, when carried out correctly, no more painful than a filling.

It's also one of the reasons why there is even a treatment to save a tooth in the event that root canal therapy isn't enough.

Your natural teeth are the best thing for your oral health because they affect:

- how you talk
- how you eat
- the strength and health of your other teeth
- the strength and health of your jaw

While healthy natural teeth are always the best option for your oral health, there are alternatives available for those who have already lost a tooth...



Dental implants

Combining the best of modern science and technology

The benefits of dental implants

Replacing a missing tooth (or teeth) with implant dentistry has a host of health benefits.

Three of these include:

1. Preventing other teeth from migrating

When you lose a tooth, the teeth on either side start to shift. This is your body trying to fill the gap. This is problematic as it can cause your teeth to become misaligned.

2. Implants look after the health of your jaw

By replacing the tooth root with a dental implant, growth-stimulating pressure is restored to your jaw.

3. You don't require adjacent teeth to be shaved down

Unlike bridges, dental implants do not require existing healthy teeth to be shaved down.

The best time to get dental implants

There's no time like the present!

The sooner you get a tooth replaced the better it is for your oral health.

Why?

Once you lose a tooth, the bone (the alveolar) starts to shrink. This bone does not grow back, and if you wait too long you may require a bone graft in order to restore your oral health.

As this bone starts to shrink it affects your gums and your remaining teeth. Over time, it can give your face a sunken and prematurely aged appearance. It can also exacerbate other oral health issues.

By replacing a missing tooth with implant dentistry, you can avoid this problem.

How do dental implants work?

The dental implant, a biocompatible titanium rod, is surgically placed into your jaw at the site of the missing tooth root.

The advantage of using biocompatible titanium for dental implants is that the chance of your body rejecting the foreign material is next to zero.

Once the implant has been placed, a process known as osseointegration starts to occur. This is when your jawbone fuses with the implant, creating a strong and sturdy tooth root.

Once the dental implant is placed, an implant crown, bridge or denture is attached, depending on your needs.

The dental implant provides jawbone support and stimulation for continued health.

The implant crown, bridge or denture looks after your natural teeth and gums.





The dental implant process

The three phase process

Getting dental implants or an implant-supported bridge is a three stage process

When you visit an implant specialist for your first consultation they will discuss all aspects of your treatment—everything from associated costs to possible risks and possible complications.

This will help you make an informed decision about the implant surgery.

The consultation is the first stage of the implant dentistry treatment.



The second phase—if you don't need a bone graft—is the placement of the implant and osseointegration

This surgery is carried out in-office with local anaesthetic or light sedation to help make you more comfortable, and minimise the presence of discomfort or pain.

Using precise and gentle surgical techniques, the implant is surgically placed into the jawbone at the site of the missing tooth.

Alternatively, if you are suffering bone loss and require a bone-graft, your implant specialist will arrange for a bone graft to expand your bone to a width suitable for the stability of dental implants.

3 to 6 months later...

This is how long it can take for your jawbone to heal around the implant. This process is known as osseointegration and helps to ensure a strong, solid foundation for replacement prosthetic teeth such as dental crowns, bridges or dentures.

The third phase is attaching your prosthetic to the implant

The final stage of treatment is to attach your new prosthetic tooth or dentures to the implant, completing the implant process.



Implant-supported dentures

Moving on from loose-fitting dentures

Don't deal with loose dentures; Implant-supported dentures can be better for your health and your lifestyle

There are 3 types of implant-supported overdentures. The advantages of these include:

- Restore proper chewing function, allowing for a better diet and improved health
- Improve speech and confidence
- Minimally invasive procedure
- End the cost and inconvenience of dental adhesives
- Help stimulate your jaw and maintain bone structure

Three different implant-supported overdentures

When you visit your implant specialist for your initial consultation they will take an x-ray so a model of your teeth can be taken. The purpose of this model is to determine the best position for the dental implants.

1. Fixed overdenture

If you are missing all your teeth, a custom-made denture can be attached using dental implants. Once the implants are inserted and have healed, you will be fitted for an overdenture which attaches to the implants.

Because the overdenture is supported by dental implants, it can stimulate the jaw as well as help to maintain the bone tissue.

Fixed overdentures can be removed by your dentist for cleaning and maintenance.

2. Removable overdenture

A removable overdenture is similar to a fixed implant-supported overdenture except that once the dental implant is placed in your jaw, a custom-made bar will be attached to the implants to support the new overdenture. You will be able to snap or clip it into place, and you can easily remove it for cleaning.

3. Implant-stabilised overdenture

Similar to a fixed implant-supported overdenture, implant-stabilised dentures are a small number of implants used to stabilise your denture.

You can then take your denture out each night to clean it.

Dental implant candidacy

Determining your suitability

Implant candidacy can be the difference between a successful surgery and an unsuccessful surgery.

When considering dental implant surgery, it is always best to ask your dental professional about all aspects involved so you can be sure this treatment is in line with your needs and dental requirements.

Suitable candidates

Implant dentistry requires oral surgery. With this in mind there are three main requirements for ideal candidacy:

1. Adequate amount of jawbone present

You will need to have an adequate amount of jawbone present in order for the surgery to work. This is because the implant will fuse with the jawbone (osseointegration). An inadequate amount of jawbone can cause a high risk of implant failure.

If you do not have adequate jaw bone material, a bone graft can be carried out prior to implant dentistry.

2. Good overall health

This will show your dentist and oral surgeons that you can properly handle the treatment as well as any potential risks or complications associated with implant surgery.

3. No presence of gum disease

Gum disease can cause a high risk of implant failure. If you do suffer gum disease, it will first need to be treated before an implant treatment can be placed.

Three things that can cause dental implants to fail

Implant failure from an experienced implant specialists is very rare, as a strict policy for suitable candidacy and stringent infection and quality control exists throughout procedures.

While every patient is different, and therefore the causes of implant failure vary, the main causes of implant failure have been known to be:

1. The presence of tooth decay or gum disease

Tooth decay and gum disease can influence the tissue surrounding the implant. This can cause difficulty during the osseointegration process.

2. Smoking

This is a large contributor to dental implant failure. For this reason it is recommended you stop smoking for at least a couple of weeks prior to and after your dental implant surgery. Not doing this has the potential to cause inflammation in the gums and cause the implant to fail.

3. Pre-existing medical conditions

Medical conditions such as diabetes can cause inflammation and result in the implant having trouble bonding to the jawbone.

Introducing Brisbane Dental Implant Group

At the Brisbane Dental Implant Group we can treat all forms of tooth loss.

This guide to implant dentistry has been provided by Brisbane Dental Implant Group and provides information about how modern implant dentistry can improve your health, quality of life and facial appearance.

With a team of highly skilled implant dentists and specialists, we are able to provide a comprehensive range of treatments and services for people of all ages; from children to mature-aged patients.

From singular tooth loss caused by disease, trauma or a medical condition, to multiple and even total tooth loss, our high quality dental specialists can help restore your smile.

Unlike other dental practices we have established what we call a 'Centre of Excellence' for implant dentistry, where you can receive all the care you need under the one roof.

Know your treating doctors and avoid jumping from specialist to specialist with Brisbane Dental Implant Group.

We provide seamless delivery for your dental implant treatment with everything from available within our practice for streamlined solutions and total care.



The Brisbane Dental Implant Group Difference

At our Coorparoo practice we have a team of doctors and specialists so the whole dental implant treatment can be done in one place.

Our team consists of:

Dr Michael Howard BDS_c(Hons)(Qld) is the director of Brisbane Dental Implant Group. He graduated from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Dental Science (Hons) in 1982.

His special interest and skill in implantology led him to undergo extensive further training, and develop a skill base aimed exclusively at dental implant reconstruction. He has since accrued almost 30 years of experience in dental implant therapies including all surgical and prosthetic aspects.

Dr Howard established the Brisbane Dental Implant Group at Coorparoo in 2005.

Dr Howard is a member of the International Congress of Oral Implantology and the Australian Society of Implant Dentistry. He is also actively involved in lecturing and training the next generation of dental implant professionals.

Dr Edward Hsu is an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon whom works in both private and public practice. Publically, he is a Staff Specialist in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the RBWH. He is registered as a specialist surgeon with both the Dental and Medical Boards of Australia and is a member of the ADA and AMA.

Dr Peter Russell is a registered specialist in prosthodontics. He is involved in teaching removable and implant prosthodontics at the University of Queensland School of Dentistry.

Dr Kent Farmer is a specialist orthodontist with a full time private practice. He has a Masters in Orthodontics and has a keen interest in dental implants. He is the President of the Queensland branch of the Australian Society of Orthodontists.

Greg Mann is our onsite Acrylic Dental Technician. He specialises in acrylic prosthesis and is responsible for the design and creation of implant retained prosthesis, temporary appliances, and splints, as well as partial and full dentures.

Ian Eberhardt is Brisbane Dental Implant Group's resident dental ceramist. He specialises in the creation of dental implant crowns, and is responsible for the fabrication of all implant crowns for all our patients.

Organising your dental implant consultation

Before jumping into the dental implant procedure it is important you consult with a qualified and recognised team.

Dr Michael Howard and the team at Brisbane Dental Implant Group invite you to book a consultation and take the first step towards a healthy implant-supported smile.

At your consultation we will assess your candidacy, provide a full quote and easy to understand guidance of the procedure ahead of you.

Call: (07) 3244 2400

Visit: www.brisbanedentalimplantgroup.com.au



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