



Dental Implants

The stable and long lasting solution for tooth loss

Dental implants are a durable and long lasting solution for tooth loss. With improved comfort, functionality, and a natural appearance, dental implants can help transform your smile!

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What are dental implants and how do they work?

In simple terms, dental implants are a titanium alloy fixture which is placed into the jawbone. They act as an anchor or root beneath the gum surface that allows for a crown or 'false tooth' to be fastened securely in place or provide support for removable prosthesis. Dental implants can have the appearance and function of a natural tooth or provide support to eliminate the discomfort of removable dentures.

At Brisbane Dental Implant Group, the implant procedure is generally completed in two phases. However, for those that do not have an adequate amount of jawbone material, a bone graft may be necessary before the dental implant procedure can commence, meaning a third phase might be necessary prior to the two phases outlined below. A full assessment of your individual requirements is necessary to determine the best treatment option.



Phase one - placing the implant

The first phase of the treatment is the placement of the implant. This is generally performed within our practice as only a local anaesthesia or light sedation is required. This is simply to ensure the patient does not experience any discomfort or pain throughout the procedure. The team at Brisbane Dental Group are expertly trained to utilise gentle surgical techniques when placing the implant at the site.

Following phase one, a 3-6 month healing period is required in order to ensure the new implant fuses with the bone correctly.



Phase two - attaching the prosthetic

Once the implant has fused to the jawbone and healed correctly, a visible crown can then be placed onto the implant. The prosthetic will be unique to each patient's particular need as it can be used to replace one or more missing teeth. Brisbane Dental Implant Group's founder and director, Dr Michael Howard, will be able to advise you of the most effective solution to suit your specific needs at your consultation.

Benefits of dental implants



IMPROVED COMFORT AND SPEECH

Tooth loss can often affect your speech by inhibiting your articulation. The loss of teeth can result in poor muscle and tissue affecting speech patterns. The replacement of a missing tooth allows you to regain natural speech ability.

IMPROVED ORAL HEALTH

Dental implants can greatly improve your overall oral health. As dental implants do not require the use of adjacent teeth as an anchor like fixed bridges do, all of the remaining teeth are left intact. Remaining teeth do not need to be shaved down or modified in any way, something which can often lead to the deterioration of surrounding teeth. Patients also experience improved access between teeth when cleaning.



DIETARY AND NUTRITIONAL BENEFITS

Removable dentures can make chewing a difficult task. Dental implants are a more rigid solution and act just like your natural teeth, allowing you to chew food without any pain or discomfort, whether supporting fixed prosthesis or stabilising removable prosthesis.

CONVENIENCE AND DURABILITY

Dental implants act just like your natural teeth meaning that there is no need to remove for cleaning or sleeping. Patients who receive dental implants can continue with their regular maintenance routine without having to worry about the inconvenience of a non-rigid fixture. With correct care and maintenance, dental implants can last a lifetime.



IMPROVED APPEARANCE AND FUNCTIONALITY

As dental implants function like your own teeth, they also have a natural appearance. When implemented correctly, people will not be able to tell the difference between the crown attached to the implant and your natural teeth, giving the appearance of a healthy smile.

Who is suitable for dental implants?

The fitting of a dental implant is a surgical procedure, and just like any other surgical procedure, there are a number of risks involved. For this reason, many candidates may not benefit or be assessed as 'suitable' for dental implant treatment. The requirements for dental implant suitability include:

An adequate amount of jawbone present

As the implant will need to fuse to the jaw, a sufficient amount of jawbone is required. Without an adequate amount, there is a high risk of implant failure. A bone graft may be needed if the patient does not have a sufficient amount of bone present for the implant to fuse.

The jawbone starts to deteriorate immediately following the loss of a tooth; therefore it is essential that a lost tooth is replaced as soon as possible.

Good overall health

As with all forms of surgery, there is a risk of complications. Good patient health greatly decreases the chance of complications associated with implant surgery.

No presence of gum disease

Gum disease is the leading cause of tooth loss in adults and can cause a high implant failure. If gum disease is present, it will need to be stabilised before any implant treatment can occur.

A warning for smokers...

Smoking is one of the largest contributors to dental implant failure as it can cause inflammation in the gums; therefore it is recommended that patients stop smoking before receiving dental implant treatment. Pre-existing medical conditions such as diabetes can also cause inflammation, resulting in difficulty with osseointegration.



Post-operative care

Immediately after surgery, it is recommended that patients apply an ice pack for approximately twenty minutes each hour to reduce swelling. Keeping your head elevated and avoiding strenuous activities for up to three days post-surgery will help to further reduce swelling and minimise bleeding.



Diet

Drink plenty of water and limit your diet to soft foods during the first week. Avoid tea, coffee, spicy meals, and alcohol for 48 hours following treatment.



Oral hygiene

Avoid brushing the surgical site for the first few days. In due time, and once tenderness permits, begin brushing carefully. You will be asked to rinse your mouth with warm salt water solution four times a day to further disinfect the area.



Regular consultation

If you have concerns about your new implant, it is essential to remain in contact with your dentist. Dismissing pain or discomfort can result in implant failure which may have been preventable if brought to our attention.

Comprehensive individualised postoperative instructions will be provided after your surgery.



Dental implant FAQs

Is dental implant surgery painful?

The use of local anaesthetic and dental sedative ensures patients are as comfortable as possible. Although there may be some swelling, patients generally experience very little pain. However, if any discomfort is experienced, your dentist can provide you with necessary medication to reduce the pain.

Can dental implants break?

In the same way natural teeth can be damaged, so can dental implants. It is important that your implants are maintained as though they are your natural teeth in order to reduce the risk of breakage.

What happens if I don't replace my missing teeth?

Not replacing missing teeth can have an enormous effect on your oral health. Not only does the jawbone start to shrink as soon as a tooth is lost, but the teeth surrounding the gap will also begin to move out of place, which can result in poor bite balance, jaw pain and headaches. Tooth loss could also lead to decay and gum problems, resulting in further loss of your remaining teeth.

How soon will I have my new teeth?

This depends on a number of factors such as the number of teeth involved, the patient's dental history and which teeth need to be replaced. The initial period for fusion to the jawbone takes at least 3 months in the lower jaw and 6 months in the upper jaw, however, in some circumstances, prosthetics may be attached much sooner.



Dental implants at Brisbane Dental Implant Group

With over 30 years of experience in dental implant therapies, Dr Michael Howard and the team at Brisbane Dental Implant Group provide the highest quality service and care. All implant surgeries are performed at our Coorparoo practice, from single tooth replacement to multiple tooth replacement and rehabilitation.

With an onsite dental laboratory, Brisbane Dental Implant Group prides itself on providing our patients with a far more customised prosthetic reconstruction. This improves the quality and aesthetics providing a more pleasing and personalised smile.

We believe that the education of our patients is imperative to ensuring a successful treatment. We aim to provide an environment where patients are listened to and given necessary guidance to allow them the most effective treatment option.

If you're considering whether dental implants might be right for you, book a consultation with the friendly team at Brisbane Dental Implant Group today!





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