



Whistler Dental

RESPONSES TO THE MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT IMPLANT DENTISTRY

WHAT IS AN IMPLANT?

An implant is a man made device that replaces missing teeth. Implants are used to give your replacement teeth a stable base in which to attach crowns, bridgework and dentures. Generally, implants are 4-6mm in diameter and 10-18mm in length. Implants are made from Titanium, a biologically safe metal. They are designed in various shapes and sizes to fit your individual needs.

WHY DO I NEED IMPLANTS?

When teeth are removed, the bone in that area is no longer stimulated by chewing forces. The bone around your teeth reacts much like your muscles. If you don't use them, they shrink. There are two things that can help stimulate the bone - a natural tooth or a healthy dental implant. When placing implants, it is very important to have adequate bone to withstand the forces that are generated by your normal dental function. At times, it is necessary to help your body grow more bone in specific areas to enable implant placement, therefore, a bone graft is required.

HOW WILL I BENEFIT FROM DENTAL IMPLANTS?

The first and most obvious benefit is the enhanced ability to chew and enjoy your food. Implants eliminate the inconvenience associated with teeth that are removable. As well as preventing the loss of bone and facial structure, implants help preserve existing teeth. Dental implants give patients a second opportunity to have strong, natural looking teeth, giving them back both comfort and confidence.

IS THIS PROCEDURE PAINFUL?

Most patients require only mild pain medication after implant surgery. Generally there is less pain associated with implant placement than with a tooth extraction.

WILL DENTAL IMPLANTS WORK FOR ME?

Many variables are considered to determine if a patient is a good candidate for implant dentistry. To assess this, a comprehensive dental examination is required, as well as an evaluation of your present health. When this information is gathered, your dentist can then determine if implant dentistry is an option for you.

WHAT IS THE IMPLANT PROCESS?

There are three steps to dental implant treatment. Surgical implant placement, surgical implant uncovering and the designing of the tooth. At times it is necessary to do bone growing procedures prior to implant placement to ensure bone support for your implant.

WHEN WILL MY IMPLANT TREATMENT BE COMPLETE?

Depending on your specific needs, treatment plans range from six months to a year. The number of appointments is determined by your treatment plan. At your consultation appointment, we will advise you of approximately how many appointments will be required.

HOW LONG DO IMPLANTS LAST?

At present, research has shown a reasonable expectation of ten to twenty years. Potentially, implants may last for the rest of your life. As with any dental procedure, expected longevity of treatment depends on the forces that exist in your mouth and the level of oral hygiene maintained.

DO I TAKE CARE OF MY DENTAL IMPLANTS THE SAME WAY AS MY NATURAL TEETH?

Just as natural teeth need hygiene maintenance, so do your dental implants. When your treatment is complete, time is set aside to instruct you in the best method to care for your dental implants. Success of dental implants is proportional to oral hygiene.

HOW MUCH DO IMPLANTS COST?

Treatment plans vary in fees according to your specific needs. Fees will be discussed prior to treatment.

HOW DO I PAY FOR MY TREATMENT?

A financial arrangement will be discussed prior to treatment.

IS THERE A WARRANTY ON IMPLANT TREATMENT?

There is a two year warranty. Should you experience problems due to reason of improper workmanship or faulty material, Dr. McKenzie will repair any dental work without charge. Please see the 2 Year Warranty Information sheet for details.

WILL MY INSURANCE PLAN COVER IMPLANTS?

At this time, many insurance companies will not insure implant dentistry. Sometimes, they will allow the cost of a bridge to be substituted for the cost of an implant. We will submit a preauthorization form and letter to your insurance company stating why implant treatment is the best treatment for you. If they do approve the cost of a bridge to be applied towards the cost of an implant, they will not reimburse any payments until the treatment is complete and that can take six months to a year. Please check your individual plan for specifications.