What Everyone Should Know about Replacing Missing Teeth BEFORE Starting Treatment

A special report by your Dr Gurpreet Notta BDS MFDS RCS Ed

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Introduction

Congratulations on downloading our complete guide on dental implants! From our multiple patient feedback forms we have found the information contained in this document contains all of the information you need to make a confident informed choice about how to replace any teeth you have lost in the past. You can feel rest assured that however traumatic and upsetting it may be to loose a tooth, our experienced team and superior success rate in both dental implants and bridgework will make you confident and secure in whatever decision you make.

There are three choices when replacing missing teeth

1) Removable dentures
2) Fixed bridges toothbourne
3) Dental implants supporting dentures, crowns or bridgework

Having fixed teeth has not just a functionality and aesthetic benefit, it can also improve flagging confidence and change your standard of life. We take huge satisfaction in changing the lives of our patients. As you read this visualise your teeth and smile as you desire and combine this with the information below. Try and match your needs and wants with the information provided and envisage your ideal option already in place. Which option would suite you best? Which option would meet your needs? Which option can we help you with that would change your life?

Each patient's situation is individual and each clinical situation is different. As you read through the following concepts we recommend that you seize the benefits, visualise the ideas and prepare yourself to laugh and smile again without missing teeth.

There are principally 3 ways to replace missing teeth

1) Dental implants
2) Bridges
3) Removable dentures

In both cases the outcome is the same, implants restore your ability to smile, eat, chew and laugh again with confidence. Many patients also find that their dignity is restored and their 'dental comfort' is massively improved. Implants are a life changing treatment, so sit back, relax and enjoy your free guide to everything you need to know about dental implants.
For people with missing/failing teeth (or tooth), without dentures

In simple terms, dental implants are precision made titanium tooth roots. An extension, called an abutment, is then secured to the implant and a custom made crown placed over it to match the colour and contours of existing teeth. Sedation is available for total comfort during treatment.

This well-established treatment is long lasting and safe, and has been shown to have success rates of more than 95% over a fifteen year period.

If you have more than one tooth missing, then we will often place 2 (or even more implants) and ‘bridge’ the gaps as highlighted by the arrow in this photograph.

The custom made crowns that fit over the top of implants ensure that you will not see any metal and will be made to blend in to your surrounding teeth invisibly… no-one will ever know you ever had teeth missing.

If you have all your teeth missing then you will either need a denture, or a ‘full arch implant supported bridge’, dentures are explained below, but a full arch bridge will usually involve the placement of around 4-6 dental implants (It depends on your exact situation as to how many you will need).

Screwed gently to these implants will be a full new set of teeth, which you are not able to remove yourself (we can remove them for deep dental cleaning periodically).

This is often the preferred option for patients with no remaining teeth as often a full arch bridge can be made to look exactly like your own teeth.

In some instances, we may find that additional surgical treatments such as bone augmentation are required. These are explained later on in this guide, but only a full clinical assessment by one of our implant dental surgeons will tell for sure.

Dental implants are used as a treatment modality for 2 groups of patients, these can be split into

1. Replace missing teeth that have been lost due to untreatable damage (e.g. trauma, dental disease, gum disease, etc.)
2. Denture stabilisation - a process that improves the retention of dentures by joining the moveable denture to a fixed dental implant via a connection (also known as a precision attachment

In both of these cases the objectives of treatment is similar, whether its flagging confidence due to missing teeth and unsightly gaps or the ability to enjoy the foods you really love and enjoy and experience reliable stability or to feel attractive again. Many of our patients at robinhood dental practice have restored their smile, function and dental comfort with this life changing treatment so sit back, relax and enjoy your free guide to everything you need to know about dental implants.
Dental implants are small titanium fixtures that are placed into the jaw and are joined to a crown via an abutment. The abutment is a extended attachment to the titanium root and is secured over the implant. This provides the foundation for a custom made crown to be placed over the implant. The crown is fabricated in a dental laboratory to match the surrounding teeth so that it looks as natural as possible.

Dental implants have been placed successfully for over 30 years and provides a success rate of over 95% over a 15 year period.

Should you have multiple spaces in a row of teeth it may be possible to place an implant retained bridge. This most commonly involves placing two implants, two crowns joined with a false tooth attached (please see diagram).

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For people with missing teeth with dentures

If you currently have dentures and find that they are loose, then dental implants can help enormously. We simply place 2 or 4 implants gently in to your mouth, then place some ‘connectors’ inside the denture (like a press-stud), this means you will hear an audible click as your denture locks in to place.

Depending on your exact situation we may decide that making a new denture is best for you, or we may even be able to convert your existing denture.

So if you wear dentures and feel you are not able to go out for a great meal with your friends then this could be a perfect solution for you.

Tip 1 your dentist may not tell you: as a general rule patients who find their dentures impossible to wear will find it an easier procedure to find dentures that they are comfortable with wearing first then provide them with a better fit by supporting them with implants. Placing implants on dentures that patients cannot wear will often exaggerate the problem!

Your Team at Robin Hood Dental Centre
Am I a candidate for a dental implant?

If you are missing one or more teeth due to trauma, tooth decay or gum disease, then you may be a candidate for a dental implant. We will be able to discuss your individual clinical situation. Dental implants will allow you to smile, speak, and eat with confidence and comfort.

If you have a tooth (or teeth) which is badly affected by decay or gum disease, or has broken beyond the point of repair, a dental implant may be the alternative and it is wise to make this decision before a tooth is extracted as sometimes an implant can be placed straight in at the same time. Sometimes, if you are facing extensive dentistry to try and ‘save’ your remaining teeth, implants are worth considering as an alternative.

For surgery you should be of good health and the remainder of your teeth will need to be healthy and free from tooth decay or gum disease. Other conditions will need to be treated before surgery.

Also, there needs to be enough bone on the jaw, so we may need to check for bone density using a CT scan. There are bone augmentation techniques and different types of implants available for borderline patients. Some patients who have previously been told that they don’t have enough bone, can now have treatment with a special type of implant called a zygomatic implant.

Why should I have a dental implant?

Losing one or more of your teeth starts a chain of events that can have physical and cosmetic consequences. The most obvious result is a gap in your smile. Less obvious is the loss of chewing function and the inability to eat a complete diet that can result from tooth loss. While these are certainly serious issues, a potentially bigger problem lies hidden beneath the surface: bone loss.

Your jawbone needs the chewing action of the teeth to stimulate it and keep it strong. Otherwise it will begin to disappear (atrophy) in the same manner that the unused muscles beneath a cast supporting a broken bone get smaller.

Without the support of your teeth and facial bones, your face may begin to look prematurely aged. The good news is that tooth replacement with dental implants offers a solution to help prevent bone loss.

Can an implant be used as an alternative to root canal treatment?

Not all teeth are good candidates for root canal treatment. Root canal treated teeth are susceptible to decay and fracture, while implants are not susceptible to decay and almost never break. Implants are an excellent and prudent alternative to the root canal, post and core, crown lengthening, and crowning procedures. A lot of patients are referred to the implant centre because of failed root canal treatment.
Is the dental implant ever rejected by the body?

The implant is machined from surgical-grade titanium alloy (Ti 6Al-4V), which is a biocompatible material. However, there is a very small chance that it will not integrate with bone. If this were to occur, the implant would be replaced with another one. It is highly unlikely that the second implant would not integrate.

What if I smoke?

Smoking can inhibit proper healing of an implant. However, this does not prevent smokers from having implants successfully placed and restored. However, the implant can be more likely to fail in a smoking patient than a non-smoking patient.

You should speak with us for more specific information relating to your dental needs and the effects of smoking.

What about any discomfort?

This is usually mild to minimal. While undergoing treatment, you will receive local anaesthesia, and we can offer sedation to allow you to peacefully drift away while we carry out your treatment, please ask us for more information about this service. You may have mild post-surgical soreness for a few days. An over-the-counter pain reliever will alleviate the discomfort for most patients.

How much time is required to have an implant procedure?

A single dental implant placement is usually completed in an hour or so with local anaesthesia.

Traditionally, the implant is then allowed to heal with the bone, this usually takes 8 to 12 weeks in the lower jaw and 12 to 16 weeks in the upper jaw. During this time we can provide a ‘temporary’ tooth to fill the space or a temporary bridge or denture depending on how many teeth you have missing.

Once you have been given the all clear you can then have your crown, bridge or denture made and fitted.

There is a procedure known as Fixed Teeth in a Day (sometimes called “All on 4”) where we can remove failing teeth if required, place implants and a fixed full arch bridge all in one day. This can avoid the need for a ‘temporary denture’ stage and has many advantages. Our team can discuss whether this would be suitable for you.

If you have poor quality bone and bone-augmentation procedures are necessary, the overall process can take up to 12 months or more. We will determine which surgical procedure is best for you.

How do I properly maintain the implant once treatment is completed?

Ironically, dental implants can require less maintenance than a natural tooth. Simply brush and floss as though it were a natural tooth. Remember, regular visits to the dentists and hygienists are required for long-term health and success of the implanted teeth and your
“After going to a number of other dentists I finally came across Dr. Notta who by far has given me the best treatment for an ongoing problem which couldn't be resolved properly by all my previous dentists. I was treated with exceptional service and professional attentiveness; the wonder he has done to my teeth has changed my life.”

‘Kind and professional team with a treatment second to none. Gurpreet and his team solved my ongoing tooth problems after years of poor dental health.”

*Denise Bates*
**How long does a dental implant last?**

If your body accepts the implant, it should last many years if cared for properly. Many implants have been in place for more than 40 years.

**What is a sinus floor bone augmentation?**

When an upper posterior tooth is lost, the floor of the maxillary sinus drops down into the space formerly occupied by the root of the lost tooth. In order to place an implant, it is often necessary to put the sinus floor back up to where it originally was by adding a bone substitute. This procedure is called a sinus floor bone augmentation or a sinus lift.

**What is a bone augmentation (sometimes called a graft)?**

A bone augmentation using a synthetic bone substitute is a surgical procedure for adding height or width to a jawbone in order to increase its volume for the placement of an implant.

**Summary**

As different treatment options become more available to people with missing teeth, it has become more important than ever to understand the benefits of implants as opposed to conventional restorations. Our team have advanced training in implant dentistry and use these skills and techniques to offer patients an innovative and reliable solution to tooth loss.

Our team of implant dentists work together to ensure the best possible treatment for you and your family, providing you with the most aesthetically pleasing result.

“I am very pleased with the end result of my implant dental surgery. All procedures were explained in detail before treatment commenced. Thanks once again for patience and understanding”

**Dentures**

**Partial Dentures**

If one or several of your teeth are missing, we can restore your smile with a Partial Denture. By replacing your individual missing teeth, he can give you back the look and function of a full set of healthy, natural teeth.

As well as replacing any missing teeth, a partial denture can also look after the future health of your mouth by preventing your remaining teeth from rotating, tilting and moving into positions that prove unsightly and awkward for eating and talking.

We can create and fit your partial denture that will not only give you your smile back but:

- Help you form words more clearly
- Make eating more comfortable, helping you to enjoy food
- Enhancing your appearance by restoring your natural smile
- Preserve the health and appearance of any remaining teeth so you can keep smiling
Implant Retained Dentures

If you suffer with dentures that wobble, tilt or rub, we can help by eliminating your sore spots and embarrassing moments with implant retained dentures, the long-term solution to tooth loss.

Implant retained dentures consist of small titanium screws that act as a substitute for the root portions of your missing teeth in either your upper or your lower jaw. The titanium implant will gently fuse with your jawbone.

Then your complete dentures or partial dentures are attached to your new root, providing you with greater stability than ever before.

Working closely together to create the solution that is right for your individual needs, we will provide you with a more secure fit and feel than ever before. With implant retained dentures, you can talk, eat and laugh freely without having worry about what your dentures are doing.

During your first clinical appointment, we will undertake a detailed clinical evaluation so we can reach a diagnosis in order to create a detailed treatment plan that is tailored exactly to your needs.

We may undertake one or all of the following:

- Investigate your dental and medical history in full
- Take x-rays and photographic images of your mouth
- Distinguish between normal and abnormal effects of aging, especially relating to tooth loss
- Advise you on how to take care of your Dentures and achieve optimum oral health

We will describe the different types of dentures available and the technical procedures involved so you can make an informed choice about the treatment you receive. Together, you and your dentist can then decide upon the right course of action for you.

From this appointment we will then need you to visit several more times for us to take measurements, these include a series of impressions of the inside of you mouth, so we can see the shape of your soft tissues. We will also register your bite so we can see how your teeth meet together. From these measurements we will be able to create a mock-up of how the teeth will look, at this stage you can try in the teeth and give your opinion on how they look. If you are happy with this mock-up we will then go on to finish your teeth ready for you wear.

Bridges

How do Bridges Work?

A bridge may be recommended if you’re missing one or more teeth. Gaps left by missing teeth eventually cause the remaining teeth to rotate or shift into the empty spaces, resulting in a bad bite. The imbalance caused by missing teeth can also lead to gum disease and temperomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders.
empty space. This is often considered a downside to bridges as the adjacent teeth need to be reduced to accept the support for the new tooth in the gap.

As with crowns, you have a choice of materials for bridges. Your dentist can help you decide which to use, based on the location of the missing tooth (or teeth), its function, aesthetic considerations and cost. Porcelain or ceramic bridges can be matched to the colour of your natural teeth.

**How are Crowns and Bridges Made?**

Before either a crown or a bridge can be made, the tooth (or teeth) must be reduced in size so that the crown or bridge will fit over it properly. After reducing the tooth/teeth, your dentist will take an impression to provide an exact mould for the crown or bridge. If porcelain is to be used, your dentist will determine the correct shade for the crown or bridge to match the colour of your existing teeth.

Using this impression, a dental laboratory then makes your crown or bridge, in the material your dentist specifies. A temporary crown or bridge will be put in place to cover the prepared tooth while the permanent crown or bridge is being made.

When the permanent crown or bridge is ready, the temporary crown or bridge is removed, and the new crown or bridge is cemented over your prepared tooth or teeth.

**How long do Crowns and Bridges Last?**

While crowns and bridges can last a lifetime, they do sometimes come loose or fall out. The most important step you can take to ensure the longevity of your crown or bridge is to practice good oral hygiene. A bridge can lose its support if the teeth or bone holding it in place are damaged by dental disease. Keep your gums and teeth healthy by Brushing with fluoride toothpaste twice a day and flossing daily. Also see your dentist and hygienist regularly for check-ups and professional cleanings.

To prevent damage to your new crown or bridge, avoid chewing hard foods, ice or other hard objects.

**What next?**

How would it be if we could help you smile more confidently? Would it make a difference to your life if you could smile without putting your hand over your mouth?

How much would you like to smile, eat and chew with absolute confidence again? At Solihull Dental & Implant Centre we are passionate about helping our patients to have healthy, happy smiles. We want you to feel good about your mouth and teeth. The way your smile looks is important, but so is having fresh breath, a healthy mouth, and teeth that function well together.
What do we offer in our Dental Clinic?

- Experienced and caring team
- A professional clinic environment
- Saturday opening by arrangement
- 0% finance
- SMS/Text message reminders
- An emphasis on preventive dentistry to ensure you stay healthy
- Bespoke implant and cosmetic suite
- Comfortable waiting areas

As a thank you for downloading this guide we have also attached a special voucher entitling you to a free consultation about replacing missing teeth.

Please do print your voucher today and call us for your appointment.

There is never any pressure to proceed and you will leave knowing the different treatments based on cost, speed and convenience. Please call us on 0121 7444044 today to find out more about your options for replacing missing teeth.

We look forward to seeing you soon
Implant Prices

Please note all prices are subject to change according to individual circumstances and should further investigation or treatment be required eg CT scanning, bone grafting this may incur further costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implant Brand</th>
<th>Cost (implant, crown &amp; abutment)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Straumann</td>
<td>£2150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implantium</td>
<td>£1650</td>
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