



riverside
DENTAL



Restorative dentistry with Riverside Dental

Your comprehensive guide to Dental Implants

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Your introduction to dental implants

Dental implants are an ideal way to replace missing teeth, whether you're replacing a single tooth or creating a mouth full of new secure teeth. Implants are a proven, long lasting alternative to bridges and dentures as they are the most natural looking restoration option.

WHAT IS A DENTAL IMPLANT?

Dental implants are the most advanced option for patients looking to replace missing teeth. An implant is a small titanium fixture that serves as an artificial tooth root. Made from medical grade titanium and combined with a custom created dental prosthetic, implant dentistry provides a secure and natural looking long-term replacement for an entire missing tooth. The success of implant-supported tooth replacement is corroborated by 20 years of clinical studies. These studies demonstrate functionality and positive aesthetic outcomes are attained by the majority of patients with a cumulative complication rate of only 1% per year.



How dental implants work

A dental implant is a screw-like anchor used as an artificial replacement for the natural roots of your teeth. A dental implant is made from materials that won't be rejected by the human body such as titanium. By attaching to the jawbone and the gum tissue, dental implants provide a firm base for prosthetic teeth such as dental bridges crowns and dentures.

The dental implant is placed surgically into your jawbone and as you heal your implant will fuse with your natural jawbone and this is what creates a strong long-lasting bone like structure. The healing process can take weeks to months and you can go about your everyday life in between appointments. Once the implant has bonded, a small connecting device known as an abutment is placed on top of the dental implants which then connects the prosthetic tooth or teeth to the implant.



Recovery time

Recovery is quite quick and most patients return to their daily activities the next day. However, every situation is different and each patient's response and recovery can vary greatly. Recovery can be longer for a patient who has bone grafting procedures that sometimes need to occur for further implant support.

Swelling is a normal occurrence after surgery and will not reach its maximum until 2-3 days after surgery. It can be minimised by applying ice to the area following surgery. This should be applied twenty minutes on and twenty minutes off during the first 24 hours after surgery. If you have been prescribed medicine for the control of swelling, be sure to take it as directed. Increase your fluid intake (no straw) following surgery and maintain a soft diet. Avoid carbonated drinks and very hot foods or drinks. A nutritious diet throughout the healing period is important for your comfort and healing. It may be difficult to chew and open your mouth due to tightness of the jaw muscles. This should disappear within 7 days.



How long do they last?

With proper care, dental implants should last a lifetime. However, the prosthetic replacement tooth attached to these dental implants only lasts around 5-15 years depending again on the care they receive. Having a good oral hygiene routine is vital for preventing infection around your dental implants, so make sure to establish a regular routine of brushing and flossing your teeth every day. Combined with regular trips to your dentist for professional cleaning and maintenance, your dental implants should be hassle free.



Oral hygiene

Keeping your mouth clean after surgery is essential to reduce the risk of infection. Start rinsing your mouth with warm salt water every 2-3 hours. Continue this for several days, then rinse 3-4 times a day for the next 2 weeks. You may start normal tooth brushing the day after surgery, except in the operated area. Rinse your toothbrush under hot water to soften the bristles and avoid vigorous rinsing. It is important to keep your mouth clean, since accumulation of food or debris may promote infection.



The Riverside Dental Difference

Your choice of dentist is critical to ensure a smooth treatment process and successful outcome of your dental implant treatment. Choosing an experienced dentist is the first step in improving your oral health, and the appearance of your smile. Cosmetic and restorative dental treatments, such as veneers, crowns and implants, require a wealth of knowledge, skill and experience.

Dr O'Rourke and his team aim to provide a comfortable and relaxed treatment experience. Before we proceed with any treatment, we discuss all the options with our patients to determine their requirements and what they are looking to achieve from their treatment.



Your Restored Smile

If you would like to find out further information on how a smile makeover could benefit you, simply book an appointment with our friendly team today.

Contact Us