

So you're thinking about dental implants at brush365... Great! Here are some things to consider.

Before beginning any implant therapy, this document should be read and discussed. Please review in its entirety!

When teeth are missing, the following treatment options are available:

1. Do nothing to replace the missing teeth
2. Have a removable partial denture to replace the missing teeth. This partial denture or "partial plate" is an appliance or prosthesis that can be removed and replaced by the patient. If all of the teeth in one or both jaws are missing, conventional complete (full) dentures can be made. This complete denture can be removed and replaced by the patient.
3. Have a fixed partial denture or fixed bridge. This appliance or prosthesis is cemented to adjacent teeth and is not removed.
4. Replace the missing teeth with one or more dental implants. Dental implants are attached to the bone and cannot be removed. However, there are several options for attaching manufactured teeth to implants by way of an appliance or prosthesis. This prosthesis can be "removable" (can be removed and replaced by the patient), "fixed-removable" (can be removed only by a dentist), or "fixed" (cannot routinely be removed).

While each of these above options has both advantages and disadvantages that will be discussed with each patient, this document specifically addresses the replacement of missing teeth with one or more dental implants.

- Implants are only an option for the replacement of missing teeth and, unfortunately, are not a "magic cure" for missing teeth. There are problems and potential problems associated with dental implants with which each patient should be familiar before having implants placed.
- Dental implants require routine maintenance therapy (cleaning and evaluation) at 3-month to yearly intervals (depending on supervising dental evaluation) for the life of the implants. There is no guarantee that the implants will last a specific period of time.
- In spite of good overall dental health, oral hygiene, dental evaluation and care, implants can still develop peri-implantitis, which is an inflammation and/or infection of the gum, and/or bone surrounding a dental implant. Unfortunately, this condition may, even with treatment, ultimately lead to failure of the implant.
- Patients who have lost teeth due to periodontal (gum) disease (periodontitis) should be particularly aware that implants may develop peri-implantitis. A history of loss of teeth because of periodontitis may indicate that these individuals are at a greater risk for peri-implantitis and, therefore, it is essential that these patients conscientiously complete daily oral hygiene instructions and receive regular professional cleaning and evaluation of their implants (maintenance therapy)

- Factors which have been documented to increase the chances of implant failure include, but are not limited to: heavy biting on the implants, for example, grinding of the teeth (bruxism) or chewing ice or other hard substances; the use of tobacco or alcohol; some systemic disease such as diabetes and osteoporosis; and the use of certain medications such as systemic steroids or antineoplastic (cancer treating) agents. These are examples only; and there may be other factors, conditions, and/or agents that can also jeopardize the success of implants.
- As with any type of artificial teeth or appliances, wear and/or breakage can also occur with dental implants. If this happens, it will necessitate additional treatment to repair or replace the worn and/or broken part(s) and may entail additional surgery. Any repair, restoration, replacement, surgery or additional treatment of the implant(s), its component parts and/or the prosthesis after the initial placement and restoration will be at an additional fee based on fees at the time the additional treatment is rendered.
- While the chances of an endosseous implant healing and becoming solidly attached to the bone in most situations is greater than 95%, it may be significantly higher or lower, depending on the area of the jaws, the type of bone and other factors. Each patient considering dental implants should be aware that the chances of an implant succeeding are not 100% and that there is no guarantee or warranty implied nor associated with implant treatment.
- As with any surgical procedure, there are risks associated with implant surgery as well. These risks include, but are not limited to, infection, bone loss, fracture of the jawbone, damage to adjacent teeth, nerves and/or sinuses. The potential for these problems varies among individuals. These risks and others, if applicable, are discussed with each patient before beginning implant therapy.

Before actually beginning any implant therapy, a treatment plan and possible alternative options will be presented to you for approval. Occasionally, this treatment plan must be altered because of additional findings before or at the time of surgery and/or the final position and/or number of successful implants. Other factors may also necessitate a final treatment that is different from the pre-surgical treatment plan.

Following the delivery of your implant prosthesis, your implant(s) should function without symptoms. If anything bothers you about the way your implant feels, looks, fits, and/or functions, you should get in touch with our office immediately. Failure to correct implant problems at an early stage may increase the chances of more significant problems and/or failure of the implant(s). Examples of problems which indicates a need for immediate professional dental consultation include: loose and/or broken implant(s) or attached prostheses (teeth, denture, appliances); redness, swelling and/or drainage of the gums around your implant(s) or prosthesis; pain or discomfort and/or a change in your "bite". Never hesitate to seek professional dental consultation regarding your implant(s).

Patient Signature

Patient Name (printed)

Doctor Signature

Doctor Name (printed)