

Dental Implant Clinic

**33 Norwich Road
Fakenham Norfolk
NR21 8AU**

01328 862620

www.fakenhamdentist.co.uk

TOOTH REPLACEMENT WITH DENTAL IMPLANTS

If you have missing teeth, did you know you are losing bone?

Losing one or more of your teeth can cause a gap in your smile, the loss of chewing function and the inability to eat a complete diet. While these are certainly serious issues, a potentially bigger problem lies hidden beneath the surface: bone loss.

Without the tooth to stimulate the jaw, the bone beneath it will begin to shrink (atrophy) in the same manner that muscle underneath a cast gets smaller. Since your facial bone supports the skin and muscles on top of it, losing volume can cause your face to look prematurely aged. The good news is that dental implants offer a solution to stop bone loss.

Tooth replacement options

Conventional treatment options for tooth replacement, crown and bridge and full or partial dentures, address the short-term cosmetic problem of the missing teeth, but do nothing to stop the bone loss. Crowns and bridges also requires that two or more healthy teeth can be ground down to serve as abutments (anchors) for a bridge, leaving them at a much greater risk for cavities and endodontic failure.

With implants, however, the healthy teeth are not compromised. Plus, dental implants, like natural teeth, transmit chewing forces to the jaw, stimulating it and halting the bone loss. This is why many leading dental organizations recognize dental implants as the standard of care for tooth replacement.

Untreated Missing Tooth



- Unattractive appearance
- Loss of chewing function
- Accelerated bone loss

Traditional Crown & Bridge



- Attractive appearance
- Cuts down healthy teeth
- Bone loss under bridge

Implant with a crown



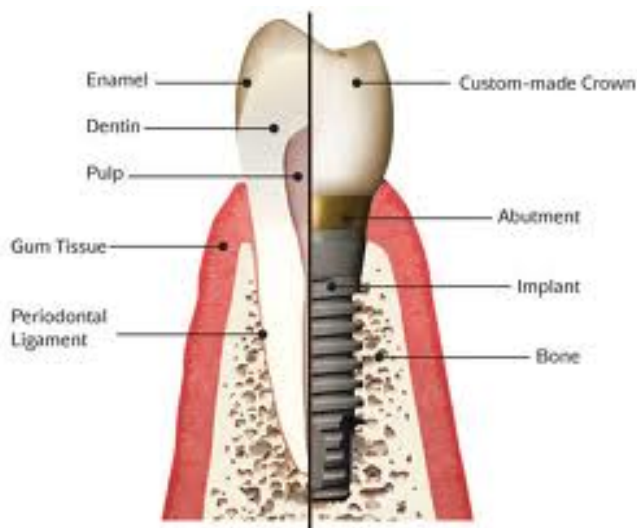
- Attractive appearance
- Full chewing function
- Prevents bone loss

Benefits of implants

- Dental implants transmit chewing forces to the jaw, stimulating it and halting the bone loss associated with missing teeth. Conventional treatment options do not offer this important benefit.
- Unlike conventional crown and bridge tooth replacement, dental implants do not require the grinding down of healthy teeth for abutments.
- Implants restore the ability to chew properly, allowing a complete and healthy diet.
- Whether you are missing one tooth or all your teeth, there is most likely a dental implant treatment plan that can bring back your smile

Dental implant history

Archaeologists have recovered ancient skulls where teeth have been replaced by materials such as cast iron and carved sea shells. Modern dental implants made from titanium have been placed extensively since the 1970s. Titanium alloy offers the benefit of being lightweight and strong and is not rejected by the body (bio friendly). It is the most widely used metal in orthopaedics and dental implants. Most dental implants are titanium screws that are placed in a relatively pain-free procedure. The implant serves as an anchor for a custom-made tooth crown that will be attached to it. Once the crown is in place, you often cannot distinguish it from your natural teeth.



Candidates for dental implants

Dental implants can be placed in most adults who are in good to moderate health. They are not typically placed in adolescents until they have reached their full-expected height. Certain uncontrolled medical conditions may decrease the effectiveness of implant treatment, so be sure to discuss your full medical history with your dentist before beginning treatment. Every patient is different and patient results may vary. Only a trained clinician can determine the best treatment plan for you. Please ask your dentist to explain the benefits and risks to see if tooth replacement with implants is right for you.

What to expect

Implant treatment can be broken down into four phases: treatment planning, implant placement, abutment placement, and crown placement. Your dentist will take x-rays and create a model of your existing teeth to determine how the implant should be placed. Occasionally, a bone or gum tissue graft will be needed to provide an adequate site for placement.

The implant is then placed in the bone and given a period of time to heal (osseointegrate) before attachment of the abutment and crown. In some cases, you can receive a temporary crown the same day. The final crown is usually placed 3-6 months after implant placement.

Maintaining your dental hygiene is the most important role you will play in the long-term success of your implant. Your dentist will give you specific instructions for brushing and flossing the area and put you on a regular check-up cycle. Given proper care, dental implants can give a lifetime of satisfaction. In the rare instances that implants do not function properly, your dentist can usually perform a procedure to correct the problem.

While dental implants may have a higher initial cost than conventional treatment options, studies have shown that they have a lower lifetime cost. This is a good investment, considering that implants help maintain bone and protect your youthful appearance.

DENTURES AND DENTAL IMPLANTS

The problems with loose dentures

Millions of people around the world are missing all their teeth in their upper or lower jaw. Many of them struggle to keep their dentures secure, particularly in the lower jaw. If you are one of them, you already know about the embarrassment of slipping dentures, not being able to eat all the foods that you love and the ineffectiveness of denture adhesives. Fortunately there is now a way to make your denture work the way it was intended; **stabilization with dental implants**.

Benefits of denture stabilization

- Restores proper chewing, allowing a better diet and improved health
- Improves speech and confidence
- Increases comfort with less irritation of gum tissue
- Ends the cost and inconvenience of denture adhesives
- Often can utilize your existing denture
- Minimally invasive procedure

Dental stabilization with implants explained

Too many people who have conventional dentures don't wear them for the simple fact that they don't stay in place. Dental implants offer a way to keep dentures in place and allow you to go about your daily life with confidence.

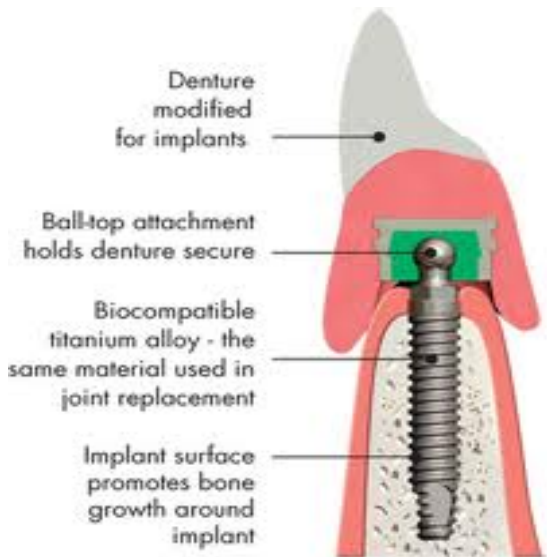
The use of dental implants to stabilize dentures has proven successful for hundreds of thousands of people. The number is growing daily as word spreads of the effectiveness and long-term integrity of the treatment. In fact, dental implants have the highest success rate of any implanted surgical device.

In the procedure titanium screws (implants) with integrated ball-tops are inserted into the bone. The procedure typically takes about an hour, and can be done under local anaesthesia. Your existing denture is modified to sit comfortably over the implants during the healing phase. Discomfort from the procedure is usually minor. Your dentist can prescribe medication to alleviate pain and will discuss a modified diet during the initial healing phase.

After the implants have healed, your denture is modified to snap onto the ball-tops. The denture will be secure until you remove it for cleaning. Simply apply upward pressure to the front of the denture with your thumbs to unseat the denture.

Talk to your dentist

Every patient is different and patient results may vary. Only a trained clinician can determine the best treatment plan for you. Please ask your dentist to explain the benefits and risks to see if denture stabilization with implants is right for you.



What to expect afterwards

Daily cleaning consists of removing your denture at night to remove any food and plaque. Brushing also stimulates blood flow in the surrounding gum tissue. Following your dentist's post-operative instructions and maintaining your dental hygiene are important factors in ensuring the long-term success of your treatment.

The benefits of eating what you want, smiling with confidence, and the many other positive changes that a stable denture can bring simply cannot be measured. Your dentist will be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have regarding dental implant procedures.



Dr Stephan Malherbe B.Ch.D.(Stell) Dip.Imp.Dent. RCS(Eng) would like to invite you for an initial implant consultation at our Fakenham surgery to discuss your requirements, this will involve taking preliminary x-rays during the 1 hour appointment. Treatment costs are worked out on an individual basis, considering your personal specific need.

This treatment is not available on the NHS.

Please contact the surgery on 01328 862620 to book your appointment.