

Implant Frequently Asked Questions

Will it hurt? Just like any surgery there can be some discomfort, however we use anesthetic and offer intravenous sedation as an option to eliminate any discomfort. Surgery is similar to having several teeth removed. We also prescribe medication to control any discomfort or swelling that may occur. We take special care to remain in contact with you and to see you post-operatively. We're available 24 hours a day should have any concerns.

Are all implants successful? The body does not reject dental implants, as it might a soft tissue implant, such as a heart or a lung. Dental implants are made from titanium which is compatible with our bodies. Success rates collected over 30 years are 95%.

How much will it cost? The procedures involve a significant investment and can range from approximately \$2500 to \$25,000 per jaw. A survey of 350 patients, after completion of their work, said that it was not only worth the investment, but that they would do it again!

Why does it cost so much? An implant is a man-made replacement made out of titanium. Special drills and components must be purchased for the implants to be successfully placed.

Will my insurance pay? Why won't my insurance pay? Although portions of the surgery, in some cases, are covered by the dental insurance an implant is not a covered benefit on the majority of insurance contracts. We're persistent and trained to maximize all of your available medical and dental benefits.

Are implants guaranteed to work? We personally are very confident in our success rates and warrantee all our implants for a one year period. The implant manufacturers we work with guarantee the implant components for a ten year period.

What do they feel like? Our patients who have undergone implant placement relate to us that their implants provide a solid base to affix teeth and that they feel very natural.

Am I too old? As long as you are in good health age is not a factor. We routinely place implants in patients in their seventies and eighties.

How long before I have teeth? To complete treatment it takes from 4 months and, in some cases, as long as 18 months. Temporary teeth, if desired, can be provided during this healing phase.
At no time do you have to be without teeth!

Will they look like your teeth? We work with your general dentist and our dental laboratory to have your teeth as natural looking as possible. If supporting bone and gum tissue has atrophied (shrunken down) your new teeth may need to be slightly longer to fill the space.