



Dental Implant Instructions

The post-operative course for dental implants typically involves very little swelling or pain. However, when in doubt, follow these guidelines or call our office as some procedures are more extensive than others. If pain or swelling is present, it will usually subside after 1 week. If you have persistent swelling or pain after the second week, please call the office. During your procedure, your dental implant(s) may be covered with your gum tissue or exposed.

Covered Implant

If your implant was covered, please avoid chewing in the area and refer to the General Post-Operative Instructions. A covered implant will require a simple exposure procedure, which will take place in 3-6 months.

Exposed Implant

If your implant is exposed, you will see a metal post (implant temporary/healing abutment) appearing through the gum tissue. The exposed metal abutment portion is a temporary component that will eventually be replaced by the implant crown. On occasion, the abutment may loosen or come off. If this occurs, call the office. Please follow these additional instructions:

- Avoid hard or crunchy foods in the area: pressure from chewing hard or crunchy foods can cause implant movement or pain
- If this occurs, the implant could become compromised and may require removal and replacement
- Begin brushing the exposed metal abutment portion 1 week after the procedure
- Initially, it is common to see some bleeding of the gum tissue with the beginning of brushing
- Usually, this will subside after 2 days of normal brushing

Implant or Abutment Movement

If the implant begins to move, please call the office immediately. Pain may be present with implant movement.

Removable Temporary Tooth

This may consist of a "flipper" to replace one tooth, several teeth, or a complete temporary removable denture. The removable temporary will have been adjusted to eliminate pressure on your implant or implants. The temporary should be used for social appearances and left out of your mouth while eating and at night.

Care instructions for the removable temporary should be provided by your dentist. Any adjustments in your bite, or any adjustments required for additional comfort, will also be managed by your restorative dentist. You will be followed closely throughout the post-operative course. Before your dentist can begin fabricating your final implant crown(s), an implant stability check will be completed. This occurs 3-4 months after your implant procedure.

Fixed Temporary Tooth

A temporary tooth that is attached to the implant may have been fabricated. This temporary is purposely adjusted to be short so that it will not make contact with any other teeth. This temporary is only for appearance and NOT for biting into or chewing food. Because this temporary is made of plastic, it may fracture or come off. Should this occur, call us or your restorative dentist immediately.

Post-operative care is very important. Unnecessary pain and the complications of infection and swelling can be minimized if the instructions are followed carefully. Common sense will often dictate what you should do.

Each case will differ, no two cases are alike. Do not accept well-intended advice from friends. If you have any questions or concerns, please discuss them with our office. We are here to support and help you throughout your recovery.

THE ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS ARE PROCEDURE SPECIFIC AND ACCOMPANY THE GENERAL POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS