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Dental Implants

Your guide to replacing a missing tooth for good

Reviewed by Dr Jihad Kader, Implant Dentist · GDC 245088 · Last reviewed August 2026

Creating beautiful natural smiles since 2005

A dental implant is a **replacement for a missing tooth**. It consists of a small titanium post that is placed into the jawbone, where it acts like a natural tooth root. A custom made crown is then attached to the implant, creating a strong, natural looking tooth.

How a Dental Implant Works

A dental implant replaces a missing tooth by acting as an artificial root. A small titanium post is placed into the jawbone, where it gradually fuses with the bone to create a strong foundation. Once the area has healed, a connector and a custom-made crown (artificial tooth) are attached to the implant. The result is a secure, natural-looking tooth that allows you to eat, speak, and smile comfortably.

How Long Does a Dental Implant Take?

A dental implant usually takes **3 to 6 months** to complete. This is because the implant needs time to **join with the jawbone** and become strong and secure. Once healing is complete, our dentist can attach the final replacement tooth (crown). This healing time helps ensure the implant is stable and long-lasting.

Does Dental Implant Surgery Hurt?

Most our patients are surprised by how **little discomfort** they feel during dental implant surgery. The procedure is usually carried out under **local anaesthetic**, which numbs the area completely, so you should not feel pain during the treatment. You may feel some pressure or vibration, but not sharp pain.

After the surgery, it is normal to have **mild soreness, swelling, or bruising** for a few days. This is usually manageable with over-the-counter pain relief and by following your dentist's aftercare instructions.

Most discomfort improves within **a few days**, and the site continues to heal over the following weeks and months as the implant bonds with the jawbone.

How Long Do Dental Implants Last?

Dental implants are designed to be a **long-term solution** and can often last **20 years or more**. In many cases, the implant itself can last a lifetime with proper care.

The implant (the titanium post in the jawbone) is usually the longest-lasting part. The crown (the visible tooth attached to the implant) may need replacing after **10 to 15 years** due to normal wear and tear.

To help your implant last as long as possible:

- Brush and floss daily
- Attend regular dental check-ups
- Avoid smoking
- Maintain healthy gums

With good oral hygiene and regular dental care, dental implants have a very high success rate and can remain strong and functional for decades.

Can My Body Reject a Dental Implant?

True "rejection" of a dental implant is **very rare**. Most implants are made from titanium, which is usually accepted by the body. However, implants can sometimes **fail** if the bone does not heal properly around them, if there is an infection, or if the implant is placed under too much pressure before it has fully healed.

Even when an implant fails, it can often be removed and replaced after the area has healed.

Am I Too Old for Dental Implants?

In most cases, **no**. There is **no upper age limit** for dental implants. What matters more than your age is your overall health, the condition of your gums, and whether you have enough jawbone to support the implant.

A dental assessment and X-rays can help determine whether implants are suitable for you, regardless of your age.

What If I Don't Have Enough Bone for a Dental Implant?

Being told you don't have enough bone **doesn't necessarily mean you can't have a dental implant**. It simply means your dentist may need to build up the bone first or consider alternative treatment options.

Ready to Take the Next Step?

If you're thinking about replacing a missing tooth, the best way to find out if dental implants are right for you is to book a consultation. At Sale Dental Spa, our experienced team can assess your teeth, gums, and jawbone, explain all your options, and create a treatment plan tailored to your needs.

What does it cost?

Prices are always current on our website at [saledentalspa.co.uk/fees](https://www.saledentalspa.co.uk/fees), and 0% finance options are available through our finance partner.

Better still: book a **free Smile Design consultation** and you will leave with a written plan and exact pricing for your own teeth, with nothing to pay for the consultation and no pressure to go ahead.



A real Sale Dental Spa patient, treated at our practice. Shared with their kind permission.

Rated 4.8 from over 370 Google reviews

Ready when you are

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