



## Dental Procedure Information

### Dental Implant

#### Introduction

A dental implant uses titanium rods to replace the root of missing teeth. This procedure is a more comfortable option than ill-fitting dentures or bridgework. The dentist will determine the appropriate type of implant systems and procedure according to the condition of jawbone. Please discuss with the dentist to make the appropriate choice.



- Advantages:
1. Can be done without removing tooth substances from neighbouring teeth.
  2. Look similar to real teeth, more aesthetically pleasing.
  3. Reduce the rate of bone resorption.
  4. High stability and comfortability.

- Disadvantage:
1. Less cost-effective compared to dentures or bridgework.
  2. A surgical procedure.
  3. Not suitable for everyone.

#### Outcomes

The purposes of this procedure are to replace missing teeth(s), support and anchor false teeth (e.g. denture, bridge, or crowns).

#### Procedures

##### I. Standard Procedure :

1. This procedure is performed under general anaesthesia, local anaesthesia or intravenous sedation. (This will be determined by your dentist.)
2. The gum flap is retracted to expose the jawbone. Holes are drilled into the jawbone at the pre-determined positions and angulations, and the dental implants are inserted. The gum flap is then closed with sutures.
  - The jawbone will fuse with the dental implants in 3 to 6 months. After the implants have been fuse into the jawbone, the portion of gum covering the implant will be removed. A healing device will be inserted on top of dental implants to allow the gum to heal properly around the dental implants.
  - After the gums heal around the dental implants, the healing device will be replaced by an impression component. Impressions of the dental arches are taken and dentures are made according to these impressions.
  - The false teeth are mounted onto the dental implants.

##### II. The One-Stage Surgical Procedure :

1. This procedure involves placing the healing device onto the implant during the first surgery.
2. This procedure includes inserting and fixing the prosthesis at the same time as the implant.

## **Pre-procedure Preparations**

A detailed examination is required to determine the appropriate position of the titanium implants. The doctor will explain the reason, the procedure and the possible complications to you. You will need to sign the consent form.

## **Points to note after the insertion of a dental implant**

1. Teeth must be cleaned thoroughly to avoid gingival infections around the implant which can cause the implant to loosen.
2. Regular recall and cleaning by dental professionals is also very important after inserting a dental implant.
3. After inserting a dental implant, both the implant fixture and the implant crown will have 1-year guarantee period.
4. Please contact the dentist or return to the hospital in case of difficulty in breathing, excessive bleeding, persistent nausea and vomiting, abnormal pain, wound swelling or fever.

## **Aftercare of the insertion of a dental implant**

### **Wound Care**

Bleeding will subside when a blood clot fills the tooth socket. The forming clot must keep intact to prevent further bleeding. Please:

1. Do not rinse your mouth for the rest of the day.
2. Do not touch the forming clot with your tongue or finger.
3. Blood-stained saliva is common. Please do not rinse your mouth.
4. If bleeding continues, place a clean gauze on top of the socket and bite hard on it for 30 minutes to suppress bleeding.
5. Contact the dentist or return to the hospital if bleeding is not under control.
6. You may experience facial swelling, bruising and difficulty in mouth opening. Please do not feel panic as symptoms will subside few days later.

### **Diet**

1. Do not eat till the effect of local anaesthesia (numbness) subsides.
2. Do not take alcohol or hot drinks.
3. After 24 hours, rinse mouth with warm saline (salt solution) for a few minutes after a meal.

### **Others**

1. Do not engage in strenuous exercise or work.
2. Take medication as per instructed.

## **Post Intravenous Sedation Instructions**

1. First 24 hours:
  - Do not drink alcoholic beverages. Alcohol may increase the effects of anaesthesia and sedation.
  - Do not drive, cook or use any dangerous equipment or tools.
  - Do not make any important decisions or sign any legal documents. You may be influenced by the effect of anaesthetic drugs.
2. Take medications prescribed by the dentist.
3. You may experience dizziness or sleepiness following the surgery. You shall accompany with relatives or friends when leaving.

Should there be any enquiries or concerns, please consult the dentist.

Under the professional care of the dentist, you will gradually recover. We wish you all the best during your treatment and recovery.

If you have any questions after reading the entire leaflet, please write them down in the spaces provided in order for the dentist to further follow-up.

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Compiled by Union Hospital Operating Theatre (OT) Governance Committee

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Our Hospital reserves the RIGHT to amend any information in this leaflet without prior notification

