



## **Dental implants – a patient’s guide**

### **What is an implant?**

A dental implant is a small titanium post that is placed into the bone of your jaw to provide an anchor for a new crown, bridge or denture. They work by biologic process called osseointegration, which means that the bone grows onto the implant and becomes tightly bonded to it.

### **What is the process for having an implant?**

We will first assess your suitability for implants. There are medical conditions and lifestyle factors which reduce the success rates. Also we need to check if your mouth is healthy enough and there is sufficient bone for us to attach the implant.

Will Murphy will see you for an assessment and x rays and scans, followed by treatment planning. He will explain the procedure that you will need to undergo.

If you need any bone grafts this will be done first. After that he will place the implant, which will be buried under the gum while it heals.

Three months later you will return for the implant to be assessed, and if it has integrated properly it will be uncovered and a special former put onto it to make the gum heal to a nice shape ready for your crown or bridge.

When the gum has healed, we will see you again for three visits; one to take an impression of your mouth, one to remove the gum former and take an impression of the implant, and then one to fit the finished work.

### **How long does this all take?**

You should allow around 6 months from start to finish for your implants to be completed. Unless you are having immediate loading implants, we would normally allow around three months after any extraction for the site to heal. The assessment appointments and surgery to place the implant follow at that point, and from then it will usually take around 4 months for the treatment to be completed and you to have your new smile. Every patient is different however, so we will discuss your specific requirements at your initial assessment.

### **Is there any follow up needed?**

We need to see you three months after you finish your treatment to review your implant, and for some time after treatment is completed you will need 3 monthly hygienist appointments and annual x rays. You will need to carry out careful and thorough oral hygiene for the rest of your life to reduce the risk of the implant falling out as a result of gum disease around it.

## Get in touch with us

Book for a free no-obligation consultation to find our more. Just call us on **0121 382 8544** or email [smile@nothingbutthetooth.co.uk](mailto:smile@nothingbutthetooth.co.uk)