



## **Dental implants - The first choice for missing teeth**

Dental implants are the 21st century solution for missing teeth no matter how many teeth are missing. Years of research have shown high success rates and given the science of implant dentistry an excellent reputation. It is now possible for virtually any patient to have dental implants.

Dental implants are made of titanium and are tooth root shaped. They become replacement tooth roots. Small posts are then attached to the titanium implant and this provides stable anchors for artificial replacement teeth.

### **Dental treatment procedure**

The placement of dental implants in the jawbone requires a surgical procedure and this may include bone grafting if there is not enough bone to place implants. The implants are then left for 3-6 months beneath the gum to become attached to the bone. During this time you can wear your temporary appliance or denture and not have any gaps.

Following this the implants are uncovered and a special healing collar attached to form the gum shape. An impression will then be taken and posts or attachments connected to the implants. Replacement teeth are then made over the posts or attachments.

### **Bone Grafting**

Bone grafting is a surgical procedure which replaces missing bone which occurs after tooth removal. It is required if there is not enough width or height of the jawbone to hold implants. There are different types of bone grafting procedures including:

#### **Ridge augmentation**

This is using your own bone or bone substitute (from a bottle) to increase the width, height or both of the bone where the implant is required.

A certain width of bone is required to place an implant

#### **Sinus lift graft**

There are two sinuses which are filled with air in the upper jaw. After tooth removal they can increase in size and reduce the amount of bone required for implants. A sinus lift is lifting the sinus membrane up and placing bone substitute to increase the bone available for implants. This is a common procedure and rarely affects the working of your sinuses.

### **Our expert in implantology**



Our principal dentist Tom Cassidy has years of training and expertise in dental implants. He is a member of The Association of Dental Implantology and has recently achieved a Masters in Medical Science in Dental Implantology, so you can rest assured that you are in the very best possible hands.