

Points to discuss prior to Dental Implant Treatment

It is recommended that these points be discussed with the patient where relevant and included in the treatment plan where it is felt appropriate. and/or recorded in the patient's notes.

Nature of the proposed treatment

The patient should be informed and understand the purpose and the nature of the implant surgery procedure.

Feasible options

The dental surgeon you should have carefully examined the patient's mouth and explained alternatives to this type of treatment

Possible risks associated with treatment

The patient should be informed of the possible risks and complications involved with surgery, drugs, and anaesthesia. Such complications might include pain, swelling, infection and discolouration.

Numbness of the lip, tongue, chin, cheek, or teeth may occur. The exact duration may not be determinable and may be irreversible. Also possible are inflammation of a vein, injury to teeth present, bone fractures, sinus penetration, delayed healing, allergic reactions to drugs or medications used, etc.

The patient should be aware that these risks are minimised by the use of appropriate diagnostic investigations, tests and careful treatment planning.

Personal Medical Information

The patient must give an accurate report of their physical and mental health history and also report any prior allergic or unusual reactions to drugs, food, insect bites, anaesthetics, pollens, dust, blood abnormality, or disease, gum or skin reactions, abnormal bleeding or any other conditions related to their general health.

Healing response

It should be explained that there is no method to predict the gum and bone healing capabilities accurately in each patient following the placement of implant(s) or related procedures.

Failure of implants

The patient should be aware that in some instances implants fail and must be removed. The practice of dentistry is not an exact science; no assurances as to the outcome of results of treatment or surgery should be made.

Smoking, Alcohol and Regular Dental Maintenance

The patient should understand that excessive smoking, alcohol, or sugar may affect gum healing and may limit the success of the implant. Furthermore he/she should agree to follow the dental surgeon's home care instructions and report to the surgery for regular examinations as instructed.

Anaesthesia and sedation

The patient should agree to the type of anaesthesia, depending on the choice of the dental surgeon. Furthermore they should agree not to operate a motor vehicle or hazardous device for at least 24 hours or more until fully recovered from the effects of the anaesthesia or drugs given for their care.

He/she will be asked to give their written consent prior to each occasion that a general anaesthetic or sedation is administered.

Photography and Clinical Records

Photography, filming, recording, and x-rays of the procedure will form part of the clinical records. If this material is to be used for any other purposes which would reveal the identity of the patient, his/ her permission must be obtained beforehand.

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Additional treatment with dental implants

The patient should understand that during, and following the contemplated procedure, surgery, or treatment, conditions may become apparent which warrant, in your judgement additional or alternative treatment. The patient should also approve any modification in design, materials, or care, if it is felt this it is in his / her best interest. Wherever possible any modifications should be discussed in advance.

Routine dental maintenance

Routine dental treatment with fillings and crowns require regular visits for check-up, prophylaxis and x-rays. A fee per item is normally charged for this. Extensive bridge and crown work, precision attachments and implants require the same check-ups along with more extensive cleaning techniques using special instruments and materials where implants are involved.

Teeth replaced and connected by precision joints, screws, hinges, studs and clips, etc., need maintenance and replacements when they wear out.

Periodically they need to be stripped down, cleaned outside the mouth and screwed together again in the mouth.

Poor oral hygiene and smoking can destroy the support of implants which may need surgical techniques to repair later.

There are normally three elements to the fees charged for routine maintenance:

1. Materials, replacements, renewal of broken parts or worn parts, spare parts.
2. Professional time and expertise involved carrying out this work (hourly rate, for example).
3. Hygienist's fee

All of these charges are payable by the patient. The dentist will expect patient to meet these fees regularly at check up and routine maintenance appointments.

Bruxism

Patients who show signs of bruxism should be told that their treatment may include some form of bite guard to prevent damage to, or overloading of implant-supported or routine restorations.

General Health

Patients should be advised that changes in their general health at any time before or after treatment may affect the success of their implants.

Sinus Augmentations

Possible complications at the time of the procedure

If any infection is found or a tear in the lining of the sinus occurs it may be necessary to discontinue the procedure. (In this event there may be a charge for the time spent and any materials used.)

After three months it may well be possible to continue with the procedure.

Post-operative complications possible immediately after surgery

The occurrence of severe complications is extremely rare but most patients will have some swelling and a minority bruising.

Occasionally partial closure of the eye and mild nose bleeds occur. It is not possible to predict who has what after-effects. You may not want to work for a few days.

Later complications

The possibility of infections of the sinus post-operatively is low. If this does occur and the infection continues after antibiotic treatment, it may be necessary to clean the sinus graft out. A rare complication is the development of a small hole from the sinus into the mouth. This can be treated with additional surgery.

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