



Ask Dr. Grant



DR GRANT IS A RENOWNED COSMETIC DENTIST TREATING PATIENTS BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY, THE ONLY COSMETIC DENTIST IN THE REGION GRANTED PRACTISING PRIVILEGES AT NUFFIELD HOSPITAL, EXETER

Dental Implants – What’s the story?

What are dental implants?

Dental implants are titanium rods that are surgically placed in the jaw bone to hold a crown or tooth shape to restore missing teeth or to hold troublesome dentures in place. Under suitable conditions, the bone fuses with the implant, known as osseointegration.

What happens?

You will need to have a thorough examination by a qualified dentist or surgeon who has trained adequately to provide the service. Treatment generally involves 4 stages: 1) diagnosis – an X-ray and or CT scan will determine how much bone you have; 2) surgery – a small hole is drilled in the correct and safe area and then the implant is inserted; 3) impressions are taken; 4) final fitting of the crown, bridge or denture – sometimes this can be done straight away if the bone is stable, otherwise you’ll need to wait a few months for the implant to settle.

Who does it work best on?

Non-smokers and patients who have plenty of bone and good oral hygiene. Smoking severely restricts the blood supply, and with it the size of the bone into which the implant can be placed.

The good news is that if you stop smoking the bone often quickly recovers.

Will it hurt?

The surgery itself is pain-free. After the procedure, there may be slight discomfort, although this should soon subside.

What about results?

The implants themselves should last 15 to 25-plus years. Crowns, meanwhile, will tend to last 10 to 15 years, although it largely depends on how well you look after your teeth. Implants are a very successful treatment option, although I do emphasise ‘option’ as they’re not always the treatment of choice. Careful selection is required.

**“A DESIRE TO
RESIST OPPRESSION
IS IMPLANTED IN
THE NATURE OF
MAN” – PUBLIUS
CORNELIUS
TACITUS**

Any other advice?

Be sure of your dentist’s qualifications and experience: be aware that qualifications can range from weekend courses to extensive postgraduate qualifications. Don’t be afraid to ask if you’re unsure.

Cost?

Prices range from £1,000 to £2,500-plus per tooth depending on where you go, but £1,500 to £2,000 is a ballpark. You can travel abroad and get them for as little as £600, but be warned – you sometimes get what you pay for. Wherever you go, check whether the price is all-inclusive (ie. no extras for X-rays or review appointments etc) and if the work is guaranteed. Don’t be encouraged into further treatment if being offered a cheaper implant. As always, go for trust and experience, not just price. **DL**

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