

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT DENTAL IMPLANTS

### 1. HOW MUCH DOES AN IMPLANT COST?

With the large number of cases performed by our surgeons, we are able to offer implants at costs that are comparable to the cost of dental bridges. At your consultation, we will provide a written estimate of your treatment after your clinical examination and determination of the extent of your procedure. Please remember that this does not include the abutment and crown that your dentist will be placing.

### 2. CAN THE IMPLANT BE PLACED AT THE TIME OF EXTRACTION?

Sometimes. The two factors that determine if this is possible are (1) anatomy and (2) amount of available bone. Once all presurgical planning is completed, your surgeon will let you know if you are a candidate for this option.

### 3. DO IMPLANTS WORK? IS THERE A GUARANTEE THAT THEY WORK?

As with any surgery, we cannot guarantee unconditional success. All implants are foreign bodies. Therefore, there is always a chance for failure. There have been incredible technological advances in the field of dental implantology in the last ten years. Better materials, surface treatments and implant designs have dramatically improved the success rates. In the 1980's dental implants were given survival rates as low as 60%. Currently, the standard of care is over 90%. In our experience of performing over thousands of implants, failure rate is 1 in 20 (5%). If a failure occurs, the implants are fully guaranteed and will be replaced at no cost to you.

### 4. WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS?

For implants in the lower jaw, there is the risk of lip and chin numbness. For implants in the upper jaw, there is the risk of exposure into the sinus. Our surgeons have the experience and capabilities of high tech diagnostic planning to dramatically decrease the risk of these complications.

### 5. WHAT TYPE OF ANESTHESIA IS USED?

If you have moderate to severe anxiety for any dental procedure, we offer the option of being asleep for the procedure. It is a very safe, pleasant and stress-free form of anesthesia that is recommended for implant surgery, but not required. The other option is to numb the area with "Novocaine", much like a regular visit at the dentist.

### 6. DO IMPLANTS NEED SPECIAL CARE?

No special care is needed, but they do need to be brushed and flossed regularly and professionally maintained with regular visits to your dentist.

### 7. ARE YOU A CANDIDATE FOR IMPLANTS?

Very few patients are poor implant candidates, and when they are, it is due to unfavorable anatomy. Most people can have missing teeth replaced with implants, but some will require bone and soft tissue grafting prior to the implants to achieve optimum results. Your surgeon should be able to predictably determine your prognosis and risks at your consultation visit.

### 8. IF I'M HAVING A FRONT TOOTH REPLACED WITH AN IMPLANT, WILL I HAVE TO BE TOOTHLESS DURING THE HEALING PERIOD?

No. If you are replacing a front tooth with an implant, there will be some form of temporary, removable replacement while the implant heals. This healing period can take up to 4 – 6 months, but during that time, your dentist will fabricate a device that will replace the missing tooth with a temporary partial denture, retainer or splint. This device will be placed at the time of implant surgery.

