

KEEPING YOU INFORMED



413 Owen Drive, Suite 102
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A publication of Dr. Richard Adams

Tooth loss affects more than half of today's population. However, with the latest advancements in dentistry, no one should feel self-conscious about their smile, comfort, or ability to eat certain foods.

Patient selection and evaluation greatly affects the success of dental implants. The patient selected must feel satisfaction from the prosthesis psychologically, esthetically and/or functionally. Communicating the process and benefits of dental implants plays an invaluable role in treatment for patients.

Listening closely to patients' desires may reveal their motivating factors. Your patient may be concerned with the following: embarrassment and decreased self esteem from missing teeth, discomfort caused by infection, difficulty speaking and/or eating certain foods, increased look of aging, decreased taste and inconvenient adhesives commonly experienced with dentures. Identifying and focusing on motivating factors, such as inability to eat a favorite food or embarrassment when smiling for a family photo, will create the most value for the patient regarding case acceptance.

Listed below are key benefits of dental implants and implant retained dentures (mini-dental implants) to discuss with your patients:

Benefits, plain and simple

- Increases chewing function and taste
- Preserves remaining natural teeth
- Provides increased comfort
- Eliminates partials/dentures
- Improves speech
- Ensures tooth stability
- Improves self-esteem
- Eliminates adhesives
- Reduces bone loss
- Restores natural tooth appearance

In addition to assessing patient desires, providing the patient with knowledge on Carolina Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Center's dental implant procedure will also prepare them for what is ahead. During their implant consultation, the patient will receive a detailed explanation of their treatment plan. Once a patient commits, we bring them back for a preoperative appointment which involves a clinic exam, an anesthesia interview and signing of consent forms. On the day of their scheduled surgery, patients experience a calming and relaxing atmosphere. We make sure escorts are comfortable and informed on their loved one's status. Following surgery, we provide escorts and patients with verbal and written postoperative instructions as well as a goody bag. Follow-up appointments are regularly scheduled to ensure proper care and healing.

Often times, cost can be the determining factor when presenting dental implants as a tooth replacement option to patients. Providing a price range will acknowledge the patient's concern and it will further determine whether the patient is a good candidate financially for this procedure. Our office does work with CareCredit and Chase Financing, allowing us to provide payment plan options for patients, and we are participating providers for United Concordia and Delta Dental Premier.

Dr. Richard C. Adams has been placing implants and doing extensive bone grafting for over 18 years, and he attends continuing education courses across the country in order to provide your patients with the best care available.

Feel free to display the FAQs about Implants in your treatment rooms! If your office is interested in scripts regarding dental implants for your staff and patients, please contact us at 480-4890. In addition, if there is anything else you would find helpful in presenting dental implants to your patients, please let us know. Carolina Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Center is committed to providing doctors with the information and resources necessary for dental implant patients.



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Most Frequently Asked Questions about Implants

Who Can Benefit From Implants?

Health is usually a more important factor than age for prospective patients. Implant patients can range from young adults with congenitally missing teeth, accident victims, long-term denture users, to adults who suffer the embarrassment and inconvenience caused by removable teeth.

Are Dental Implants a New Procedure?

No, quite the contrary, the implants we use today have been developed and perfected within the past 30 years. Most implant procedures are routine to experienced implant specialists. The implant system we use in our practice is the best that implant dentistry has to offer.

Are Implants Successful?

Some patients have had their implants for as many as 30 years. The expected longevity of an implant is often equal or greater than restorations on natural teeth. How long an implant remains depends on the general state of health, habits, and commitment to follow-up, professional, and home care. Implants fail for the same reasons as natural teeth – poor oral hygiene.

What about Rejection or Infection?

Implants are made from biocompatible materials - materials our bodies do not consider foreign - and therefore, no rejection occurs. Since these materials are made of metal such as titanium, there is no likelihood of causing an antigen-antibody response, a rejection similar to that which sometimes occurs with heart and kidney transplants.

The possibility of an infection occurring around healed dental implants is the same as that for natural teeth. As with natural teeth, you must practice good oral hygiene to keep the tissues healthy, therefore, implants and replacement prosthesis must be professionally maintained.

Will People Know I Have Implants?

Not unless you tell them. Since the prosthesis (replacement teeth) covers the implant posts, no implant components can be detected. However, many patients tell everyone they know that they have dental implants, due to the benefits they receive from having them in place.

How Long Does Treatment Take?

Treatment time for surgical placement of implants and healing depends on the location in the mouth and the type of implants placed. The procedure can take from three to six months, or in some cases more, depending on pre-existing conditions. The majority of cases do not require the patient to be without some form of tooth replacement during the restorative phase of treatment.

Are Implants Expensive?

Implants are an investment in your physical and oral health. The restorative dentist or the surgeon can provide a range of fees prior to your consultation. In a survey of 350 patients treated with dental implants, all agreed that their implants were worth the investment. Patients overwhelmingly indicate the positive change that implants have made in their lives. Many indicate that the initial financial outlay was minimal compared to the long-term benefits.

