

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT IMPLANTS

1. What are dental implants?

A dental implant is used to support one or more false teeth. It is a titanium screw that can replace the root of a tooth when it fails. Just like a tooth root, it is placed into the jawbone.



2. I have a medical condition? Can I still get an implant?

Medical conditions can affect whether you are eligible to get an implant. Therefore, it is imperative to discuss the extent of your medical condition, in order for your dentist to ascertain your current medical status and eligibility for the dental procedure.

Mention few main Diseases-Uncontrolled diabetes,

3. I am above the age of 50. Can I still get an implant?

Age does not affect the ability to receive an implant. However, with age also comes other factors to consider such as the quality of the bone structure and gum health etc. Therefore, it is best to check with the dentist first if you are eligible to get an implant.

4. How long does an implant take to place? How many visits?

1st Visit-Consultation

2nd Visit-implant is placed

3rd Visit-after 2 months for 2nd stage of implant

4th Visit-1 week later a crown is placed

5. How long does it take to heal?

Initial healing takes a few days. It takes 2 months for the bone to completely integrate with the implant.

6. How will I feel right after getting implants?

An implant procedure is less painful than an extraction. The first day after treatment is the most uncomfortable, hence the dentist prescribes antibiotics and painkillers to ease the pain/discomfort and reduce symptoms. You might experience some pain, swelling and discomfort around the implant area. However, this discomfort should only last a while and should not hinder you from your daily activities.

7. How much do implants cost?

Roughly RM 6000 per implant and RM 2000 for each implant and crown.



	DENTAL IMPLANTS	BRIDGE	DENTURE
COST	Highest	Medium	Lowest
TREATMENT TIME	8-10 weeks	1 week	1-2 weeks
DURATION (LIFE SPAN)	15-30 years	10-15 years	5 years
STABILITY	Very stable	Moderate	Less stable
COMFORT	Comfortable	Comfortable	Takes time to get used to
INVASIVENESS	Small surgery required	Adjacent natural teeth are cut/prepared	No surgery
AFFECT ON CHEWING	Like healthy natural teeth	Like healthy natural teeth	Slippage possible
CHANGE IN SPEECH	None	None	Yes
BONE PRESERVATION	Yes	No	No-promotes bone loss
CONVENIENT CLEANING	Yes	Poor	Yes
REPLACEMENT	Takes time to replace/difficult	Difficult	Easy to replace

8. What are the risks involved?

Side-effects

Side-effects are the unwanted but mostly temporary affects you may get after having the procedure. You may have some swelling and discomfort around the implant area. If so, you can take an over-the-counter painkiller such as paracetamol or ibuprofen. Always read the patient information leaflet that comes with your medicine and if you have any questions, ask your pharmacist for advice.

Complications

As with every procedure, there are some risks associated with dental implant surgery. Complications are when problems occur during or after the procedure. The possible complications of any operation include an unexpected reaction to the anaesthetic, or excessive bleeding.

The nerve that runs to your face has branches that are in your lower jaw. These supply the feeling to your lower jaw, lower teeth and gums and your bottom lip. If the nerves are damaged by the implant, you may feel temporary or sometimes permanent tingling or numbness. It may also be painful. X-rays and CT scans help your dentist to see the position of the nerves in your jawbone to minimise this risk.

Occasionally, the jawbone doesn't fuse with the implant properly and the implant can become loose. This isn't usually painful, but the implant won't be able to support false teeth. You may need to have another implant fitted. Your dentist will ask you to attend regular check-ups to make sure your implants are still secure.