

DENTAL IMPLANTS FOR TOOTH REPLACEMENTS -II

(After the previous article on Implants, I received tremendous response from readers requesting more information on the topic of dental implants...hence this is the sequel to the previous article, providing some answers to commonly asked questions regarding implants)

Your teeth were designed to last a lifetime, but sometimes they don't!! Replacing missing teeth is important to your general health and to the health of your other teeth. Not only do you lose chewing ability when teeth are lost, but unreplaced teeth can cause other teeth to be lost, tipped or crowded and cause subsequent problems. Also, there are problems associated with poor appearance and loss of self-esteem with the loss of one or more teeth.

Dental implants should always be considered as an option for replacement of a lost or failing tooth. Treatment is considered more predictable than bridgework, resin-bonded bridges and endodontic treatment.

Q What are Implants?

Dental implants are substitutes for the roots of missing teeth. They act as an anchor for a replacement tooth or "crown" or a set of replacement teeth.

Q Am I a candidate for a dental implant?

Implant patients are of all ages and implants may be the right choice

for anyone missing one or more or even all of their teeth due to injury, disease or decay. They are especially practical for patients who can no longer wear removable dentures. Your dentist can determine if you are a candidate for dental implants after a careful evaluation of your dental and medical history.



Q Are there different kinds of implants?

There are many shapes, sizes and brands of implants available. Depending on your individual need and situation, your implant dentist will know which implant is the right one for you.

Q Do I have enough bone?

It is important for a patient to have enough bone to support the implant. If you do not have

enough bone, there are many safe and effective ways to correct bone deficiency. Your dentist will assess this and advise you if additional bone material is needed.

Q Will this take a long time?

Treatment time can vary greatly depending on your needs. Each situation needs a separate evaluation, your dentist will be able to give you an approximate timetable. Typically the implant restoration is a two-stage procedure. First the implant is placed and left in the bone for 3 months for integration after which it is restored with a crown.

Q Whom should I consult for my implant treatment and what is the approximate cost?

Your general dentist is your first resource for this service. The key is the implant dentist's training, experience and credentials. The cost varies on the type of implant and its purpose..it ranges from Rs 30,000 – Rs 50,000 per implant and then the cost of the prosthesis.

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The Dental Care and Implant Centre

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