



## COMBERTON DENTAL SURGERY & IMPLANT CENTRE

### **What is a dental implant?**

Dental implants are the most advanced way to replace a missing tooth or teeth. It is a replacement root made most commonly of titanium which is implanted into the jaw in areas where a tooth or teeth have been lost. This then acts as a root and a replacement tooth can then be fixed to it in a similar way as a crown. They are currently the closest you can get to natural teeth and although it is impossible to beat or replicate a healthy natural tooth it is often reported by patients that implants look, feel and function like natural teeth.

### **What does the treatment involve?**

Implants are placed under local anaesthesia similar to that used for fillings or extractions. They are inserted into the jawbone after incisions are made in the gums. The duration and complexity differs from case to case. For more complex cases or nervous patients it will be advised to consider conscious sedation. After a period of time the bone into which the implant is placed will attach to the surface of the implant. A small metal pin is then fitted onto the implant upon which a final restoration in the form of a crown or bridge or over-denture is fixed. The time required to complete treatment also differs from patient to patient and their individual treatment plan but usually takes three to six months.

### **What to expect after treatment/Aftercare**

When treatment is completed you can expect to use implant supported teeth in a very similar way to natural teeth. It is very important to understand that implant supported teeth need ongoing daily cleaning and maintenance just like normal teeth. They are very easy to clean and you will be shown how to do this. However, failing to clean around implants on a daily basis may result in probable failure. Regular inspections by the dentist will also form part of the ongoing maintenance programme.

### **Is it painful/Uncomfortable/Pain control?**

Most patients are pleasantly surprised as to how little pain is experienced after implant placement. Often none or just a couple of pain control tablets are needed on the day after the procedure. Some swelling as well as bruising for a few days after surgery can also be expected.

### **Problems/Causes of failure/Success rates/How long do they last?**

Penny has a very high success rate with implant placement. A very small percentage of implants can fail shortly after placement and have to be removed. Smoking and excess alcohol consumption plays a major role in early and late implant failure. The risks involved with smoking will form part of your treatment plan. Poor plaque control around implants also plays a major role in late implant failure. It can be accepted that a well-integrated implant that is well maintained in a healthy mouth can last many years with a good possibility that this can last you your lifetime. You must also expect that crowns and/or any other structures fixed on an implant might need replacement and maintenance in the same way as normal teeth need attention from time to time. This also includes possible screw and component failures.

### **Cost**

Every case is different and varies in cost, we recommend a 30-minute consultation with Penny who can propose a treatment plan and cost.