



WHY HAVE I BEEN REFERRED

DENTAL IMPLANTS

So you have been told by your dentist that you would benefit having a Dental Implant but not sure what this is or why you need it. Here is a small guide to all those questions.

Dental implants are a popular choice for replacing missing teeth due to their long-term durability, natural appearance, and ability to prevent bone loss. They also offer a fixed, long-term solution that allows you to eat and speak naturally without needing to remove them for cleaning, as with dentures.

Why have you been referred

You've likely been referred for a dental implant because you have a missing tooth, and other treatment options have been deemed unsuitable or ineffective. Dental implants are a fixed, long-lasting solution for replacing missing teeth, offering a more natural and stable alternative to dentures or bridges.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

Missing tooth:

- The primary reason for a referral is having a single missing tooth, multiple missing teeth, or a complete absence of teeth.

Other treatment options:

- Your dentist or specialist has likely considered and ruled out other options like dentures or bridges, which may be less effective or suitable for your specific needs.

Fixed and natural Look:

- Dental implants offer a fixed, long-lasting solution, and the replacement tooth looks and functions more like a natural tooth.

Bone support and health:

- Implants replace the root of a missing tooth, which helps stimulate bone growth and prevent bone loss in the jaw.

Individualized treatment plan:

- The decision to refer you for a dental implant is likely based on a thorough assessment of your oral health, bone density, and specific needs.

Here's a more detailed look at why people choose dental implants:

Durability and longevity:

- Dental implants, when properly cared for,

can last for a very long time. They are a fixed, long-term solution that requires no removal for cleaning.

Natural appearance and function:

- Implants are designed to look and feel like natural teeth, and can be customized to match the shade, shape, and size of your existing teeth. They also allow you to eat and speak naturally.

Prevention of bone loss:

- When a tooth is missing, the jawbone beneath it can shrink over time due to a lack of stimulation from the tooth root. Dental implants stimulate the jawbone, preventing further bone loss and maintaining the shape of your face.

Improved eating and speaking:

- Implants restore your bite and allow you to chew and speak properly, so you can enjoy a wider variety of foods without restrictions.

No need to prepare healthy teeth:

- Unlike bridges, which require the preparation of neighboring teeth, dental implants are placed directly into the jawbone and do not affect the surrounding teeth.

Improved self-confidence:

- Missing teeth can make you feel self-conscious or affect your ability to speak and eat. Dental implants can restore your confidence and allow you to smile and speak with ease.

Long-term cost-effectiveness:

- While the initial cost of dental implants can be higher than other options, they are a long-term solution that can save you money in the long run by preventing further bone loss and the need for replacements.

Here's a more detailed look at the Dental Implant process may look for a single tooth:

- Consultation
- CBCT and intra oral scan
- Consent
- Implant placement (sedation available)
- Review
- 3 months of healing
- Implant crown preparation scan
- Implant crown fit

Why fill a space

Filling dental gaps, can be beneficial for both aesthetics and oral health. Gaps can lead to shifted teeth, increased risk of plaque and bacteria buildup, and may even affect a person's confidence. Addressing gaps can improve bite alignment, chewing efficiency, and overall oral hygiene.

Here's a more detailed look at the reasons why filling a dental gap is often recommended:

Aesthetic reasons:

- Improved Smile Appearance:
- Gaps can make a smile feel less than ideal, leading to self-consciousness or reluctance to smile. Filling the gaps can restore a more uniform and aesthetically pleasing smile.

Enhanced confidence:

- A more symmetrical and natural-looking smile can boost a person's self-esteem and confidence.

Oral health benefits:

- Reduced risk of plaque and bacteria buildup:
- Gaps create spaces where food debris and bacteria can easily accumulate, increasing the risk of tooth decay and gum disease. Filling the gaps can help prevent plaque and bacteria buildup in these hard-to-reach areas.

Improved bite alignment:

- Missing teeth can cause surrounding teeth to shift, leading to misalignment and improper bite function. Filling the gap can help restore proper alignment and prevent further problems.

Chewing efficiency:

- Gaps can make it difficult to chew certain foods effectively, potentially leading to a less varied diet and digestive issues. Filling the gap can restore proper bite function and allow for a more enjoyable and efficient chewing experience.

Prevention of further tooth loss:

- When a tooth is missing, the surrounding bone can begin to break down, making the remaining teeth more vulnerable to loss. Filling the gap can help preserve the bone structure and prevent further tooth loss.

Preventing chipped or broken teeth:

- Gaps in teeth can lead to an improper bite, which can cause chipped or broken teeth, especially when an opposing tooth is missing. Filling the gap can help restore a proper bite and prevent such issues.

Other considerations:

Personal preference:

- While gaps are common and may not always be a health concern, many people prefer to close them for aesthetic reasons or to improve their self-confidence.

Gum and bone health:

- A missing tooth can lead to gum and bone recession in the affected area, which can make adjacent teeth unstable and increase the risk of further tooth loss. Filling the gap can help stimulate bone and gum tissue, potentially reversing or preventing recession.



Cranfield Dental Care

Helping you look after your teeth and gums, every day.

Contact our Reception team 01462 434323 for general enquiries, or speak to our **Treatment Coordinator (TCO)** 07714117790 for advice and information about your treatment options.

We're here to help you understand what's available and find the right next step for you.