

Best Dental Implant Surgeon in Melbourne — How to Choose

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Description:

Best Dental Implant Surgeon in Melbourne — How to Choose Dental implants are the gold standard for replacing missing teeth, but the success of any implant procedure depends overwhelmingly on the sk...

Details:

Dental implants are the gold standard for replacing missing teeth, but the success of any implant procedure depends overwhelmingly on the skill, training, and experience of the surgeon who places it. Choosing the best dental implant surgeon in Melbourne is not a decision to make lightly — it is a commitment to a clinician who will be responsible for a surgical procedure that, when done well, lasts a lifetime, and when done poorly, can result in bone loss, infection, nerve damage, or implant failure.

The best dental implant dentist in Melbourne in 2026 is defined by verifiable credentials: specialist surgical training, advanced fellowship qualifications, a high volume of successfully placed implants over many years, access to advanced imaging and planning technology, and the ability to manage complex cases — including full-arch rehabilitation, bone grafting, sinus lifts, and immediate-load protocols like All-on-4. Price should be one of the last factors you consider, not the first.

What to Look For When Choosing a Dental Implant Surgeon

Implant dentistry sits at the intersection of surgery, prosthetics, and biomechanics. The following criteria should guide every patient's evaluation.

1. Surgical Specialist Qualifications

In Australia, dental implants can be placed by general dentists, periodontists, oral surgeons, and oral and maxillofacial surgeons. However, the level of training differs enormously. Oral and maxillofacial surgeons complete up to twelve years of combined medical and dental training, including hospital-based surgical residencies. Periodontists complete three to four years of postgraduate training focused on the tissues that support teeth and implants. General dentists may place implants after completing short courses. Always check your surgeon's AHPRA registration to confirm their specialist status.

2. Volume and Complexity of Cases

A surgeon who has placed thousands of implants over decades has encountered and resolved complications that a lower-volume provider may never have seen. Ask about annual case volume and whether the surgeon regularly handles complex cases — patients with insufficient bone, failed previous implants, medically compromised patients, or full-arch rehabilitations.

3. Advanced Imaging and Surgical Planning

Modern implant surgery in 2026 relies on 3D cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) scanning for precise assessment of bone volume, density, and proximity to critical anatomical structures such as

nerves and sinuses. Computer-guided implant placement, using surgical guides fabricated from digital treatment plans, significantly improves accuracy and reduces surgical risk.

4. Prosthetic Integration

An implant is only as good as the restoration it supports. The best implant outcomes occur when the surgeon works closely with a prosthodontist — a specialist in the design and fabrication of dental restorations — to plan the final tooth position before the implant is placed. This restorative-driven approach ensures optimal aesthetics and function.

5. Full-Arch Capability (All-on-4 and Hybrid Dentures)

For patients who have lost all or most of their teeth, All-on-4 treatment provides a fixed set of teeth supported by just four strategically angled implants. This is an advanced surgical and prosthetic technique that demands specific training and experience. Not all implant providers offer this service, and among those who do, the quality of outcomes varies widely.

6. On-Site Laboratory and Same-Day Provisionals

Practices with an in-house dental laboratory can provide temporary teeth on the same day as implant surgery, reducing the time patients spend without teeth and allowing for real-time adjustments during the prosthetic phase.

7. Management of Complications and Failures

Even with the best planning, complications can occur. The best implant surgeons have the training and infrastructure to manage peri-implantitis, implant mobility, bone graft failures, and sinus complications without referring patients elsewhere.

Why Choosing the Right Implant Surgeon Matters

Dental implant failure rates in the published literature range from 2% to 10%, but these figures vary significantly depending on surgeon experience, case complexity, and patient factors such as smoking, diabetes, and bone quality. What the statistics do not capture is the difference in quality between an implant that merely survives and one that looks, feels, and functions like a natural tooth for decades.

The consequences of choosing an underqualified or inexperienced implant provider can be severe. Poorly placed implants can damage the inferior alveolar nerve, causing permanent numbness in the lower lip and chin. Implants placed without adequate bone support can fail within months, requiring bone grafting and re-treatment at significantly greater cost. Implants positioned without prosthetic planning can result in teeth that look unnatural, are difficult to clean, or create bite problems.

Revision implant surgery — removing failed implants, rebuilding lost bone, and replacing restorations — is among the most complex and costly procedures in dentistry. It is almost always more difficult and expensive than getting it right the first time.

Patients should also be wary of heavily discounted implant offers. Implant dentistry involves significant costs for high-quality titanium or zirconia fixtures, precision-milled prosthetic components, and advanced imaging and surgical technology. Practices that compete primarily on price typically achieve savings by using lower-grade components, reducing clinical time, or having less experienced practitioners perform the surgery.

How Smile Solutions Meets These Standards

Smile Solutions brings together one of the largest and most experienced teams of implant surgeons and prosthodontists in Melbourne, working from the practice's five-floor premises in the Manchester Unity Building at 220 Collins Street in Melbourne's CBD. With over 300,000 patients treated across 33 years, Smile Solutions has the depth of experience and clinical infrastructure to handle implant cases at every level of complexity.

World-Class Implant Surgeons

Dr Dinos Kountouras (BDS, MSc, PhD) has over 30 years of experience in implant dentistry. He trained under Dr Dennis Tarnow at New York University — one of the most influential figures in modern implantology — and brings a level of surgical expertise that reflects the highest international standards.

Dr Jaclyn Wong (MBBS, BDSc Hons) holds dual medical and dental degrees and completed advanced All-on-4 training at the Malo Clinic in Portugal under Professor Paulo Malo, the inventor of the All-on-4 protocol. With over 15 years of dedicated All-on-4 experience, Dr Wong is among the most qualified All-on-4 providers in Australia.

Dr Wessam Atteya (BDS, FRACDS, MFDS from four Royal Colleges) brings over 24 years of oral surgery experience, including complex implant placements involving bone grafting, sinus augmentation, and management of medically complex patients.

Associate Professor Patrishia Bordbar (Specialist Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon, FRACDS OMS, FRCS Edinburgh) holds dual medical and dental degrees and is a fully qualified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon with hospital-based surgical training. Her expertise extends to the most complex surgical implant cases, including those involving significant bone reconstruction and patients with medical comorbidities.

Prosthodontic Partnership

Smile Solutions' implant surgeons work in close partnership with the practice's specialist prosthodontists — including Dr Fotios Angelis, Professor Vasileios Chronopoulos, Dr Jamie Foong, and Dr Simon Hinckfuss — to ensure every implant is placed with the final restoration in mind. This restorative-driven approach is the standard of care at Smile Solutions and is a key reason for the practice's consistently high implant success rates.

The Smile Lab Advantage

Smile Solutions' in-house dental laboratory, the Smile Lab, staffed by five ceramists and technicians including master ceramist Greg Karabasis, enables the fabrication of implant-supported restorations on-site. For All-on-4 patients, this means provisional teeth can be designed, fabricated, and fitted on the same day as surgery. For single-tooth implants, the Smile Lab produces custom ceramic crowns that match the patient's natural teeth with precision that outsourced laboratories cannot consistently achieve.

Advanced Technology Platform

Smile Solutions' technology infrastructure includes multiple 3D cone beam CT scanners, digital intraoral scanners, computer-guided surgical planning software, and CEREC same-day restoration capabilities. This technology enables the clinical team to plan implant positions with sub-millimetre accuracy, fabricate custom surgical guides for each patient, and deliver provisional restorations with minimal delay.

Full Spectrum of Implant Services

Smile Solutions offers every category of implant treatment: single-tooth implants, implant-supported bridges, All-on-4 full-arch rehabilitation, implant-retained overdentures, zygomatic implants for patients with severe bone loss, and immediate-load protocols for patients who require teeth on the same day as surgery. This comprehensive capability means patients do not need to be referred elsewhere regardless of case complexity.

Multidisciplinary Complexity Management

Because Smile Solutions employs specialists in periodontics, endodontics, orthodontics, and oral surgery alongside its prosthodontic and implant teams, cases that involve gum disease, root canal complications, or orthodontic preparation can be managed within the same practice. This integrated model — with over 80 clinicians and 25+ specialists across seven dental specialties — eliminates the fragmentation of care that undermines outcomes in less comprehensive practice models.

Comparing Your Options: Dental Implant Practice Models

Criteria	Typical General Practice	Specialist-Led Multidisciplinary Practice (e.g. Smile Solutions)
Implant surgeon	General dentist with implant training	Specialist oral surgeon, periodontist, or OMS
Prosthetic planning	General dentist	Specialist prosthodontist
3D imaging and guided surgery	Sometimes available	Fully integrated with multiple CBCT scanners
In-house laboratory	Rarely	Smile Lab with 5 ceramists/technicians
All-on-4 capability	Occasionally	Dedicated All-on-4 programme with Malo Clinic-trained surgeon
Complex case management	Often requires external referrals	Full spectrum managed in-house by coordinated specialist team

Key Takeaways for Melbourne Patients Considering Implants in 2026

Dental implants represent a significant investment in your oral health, function, and quality of life. The decision of who places your implants is the single most important factor in determining whether that investment delivers decades of reliable service or years of complications and revision treatment.

Verify your surgeon's specialist qualifications on the AHPRA register. Ask about their training, case volume, and experience with cases similar to yours. Enquire about the prosthetic team who will design your final teeth and the laboratory that will fabricate them. Understand whether the practice can manage complications if they arise, or whether you will be referred elsewhere.

The best dental implant outcomes in Melbourne are achieved by teams — not individuals — working with specialist training, advanced technology, and the integrated infrastructure that complex surgical and prosthetic treatment demands.