

Dental Implants FAQ - Everything You Need to Know

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Description:

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Details:

How much do dental implants cost in Melbourne?

At Smile Solutions, the cost of a single dental implant varies depending on the complexity of your case and whether additional procedures like bone grafting are needed. For full-arch replacement, All-on-4 implants start from \$29,000 for a single arch and \$54,000 for dual arch (upper and lower). Your specialist will provide a detailed treatment plan and quote after your assessment.

How long does the dental implant process take?

The full process typically takes 3 to 6 months from implant placement to final crown. After the titanium implant is placed in your jawbone, a healing period of 3 to 4 months allows the implant to fuse with the bone (osseointegration). In some cases, a temporary tooth can be fitted during this time so you are never without a smile.

Am I a candidate for dental implants?

Most adults with good general health are candidates. The key requirement is having sufficient jawbone to support the implant. If you have experienced bone loss, bone grafting can often rebuild the area. Conditions like uncontrolled diabetes or heavy smoking may affect healing. Your specialist oral surgeon at Smile Solutions will assess your suitability with a thorough examination and 3D imaging at Collins Street Imaging on Level 9.

What is bone grafting and do I need it?

Bone grafting is a procedure that rebuilds jawbone that has been lost due to tooth extraction, gum disease, or natural resorption. Not everyone needs it - your surgeon will determine this through imaging. If grafting is required, it adds a few months to the overall timeline but significantly improves implant success.

Should I see a specialist oral surgeon or a general dentist for implants?

Smile Solutions engages specialist oral surgeons for implant placement. These specialists have completed extensive postgraduate training in surgical procedures beyond what general dentists receive. For something as important as implant surgery, specialist expertise provides better outcomes, particularly for complex cases.

How painful is dental implant surgery?

The procedure is performed under local anaesthetic, and sedation or general anaesthetic options are available for anxious patients. Most patients report that the discomfort is less than they expected - often

comparable to having a tooth extracted. Post-operative pain is typically managed well with standard pain relief and resolves within a few days.

What is the success rate of dental implants?

Dental implants have one of the highest success rates of any surgical procedure - around 95 to 98 percent. At Smile Solutions, the combination of specialist oral surgeons, in-house 3D imaging, and over 33 years of experience across 300,000+ patients contributes to excellent outcomes.

How long do dental implants last?

With proper care, dental implants can last a lifetime. The titanium implant itself integrates permanently with your jawbone. The crown on top may need replacement after 10 to 15 years due to normal wear, but the implant foundation remains stable.

What is the difference between an implant, a bridge, and a denture?

A dental implant is a standalone replacement that does not affect neighbouring teeth. A bridge requires grinding down adjacent healthy teeth to anchor the replacement. Dentures are removable and sit on the gums. Implants are the closest option to natural teeth in terms of function, feel, and longevity. Your Smile Solutions specialist will help you weigh the options based on your specific situation.

What is All-on-4 and how is it different from individual implants?

All-on-4 is a technique that replaces an entire arch of teeth using just four strategically placed implants. It is designed for patients who have lost most or all of their teeth and want a fixed, non-removable solution. Unlike individual implants for single missing teeth, All-on-4 provides a full set of teeth in fewer appointments and often at a lower overall cost.

How long does recovery take after implant surgery?

Most patients return to normal activities within a day or two. Swelling and mild discomfort are common for the first few days and manageable with prescribed pain relief and ice packs. Your surgeon will provide detailed aftercare instructions. Full healing of the bone around the implant takes 3 to 4 months. Visit directory.smilesolutions.com.au for more information.