



PRE-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR DENTAL IMPLANTS

Purpose: The purpose of a dental implant is to support a crown (artificial tooth), bridge, or removable, or fixed denture. The purpose of this document is to educate you about the steps and healing process of dental implant surgery.

Diagnosis: Diagnostic procedures are needed prior to dental implant placement. Surgical consultations will involve a CBCT (3D radiograph) of the areas where implants are proposed. The outcome of the surgical consultation and review of the CBCT may indicate that the placement of the proposed implants may require additional bone or gum grafting prior to, during, or after implant placement surgery, or may not be possible.

Bone & Gum Grafting: Sometimes these procedures are necessary to ensure that you have enough bone to place and implant and ensure that the bone heals into the implant (osseointegration). These procedures may graft bone or tissue into your sinus or jawbone to increase bone or gums in the vertical and horizontal direction. Healing time for these additional procedures may range from 3-8 months. These procedures will require bone graft, biologics, membrane materials, or may be taken from other areas of your mouth. These procedures will add additional healing time to your implant.

Timeline: Your implant procedure, start-to-finish, will take place over several appointments with your surgeon and general dentist. After any surgeries that are necessary to prepare the proposed implant site take place (i.e., bone grafting, gum grafting), the implant can be placed. Usually, the gum tissue is pushed out of the way to expose the bone to allow the surgeon to place the implant. When the implant is placed, the surgeon opts for one of two options: 1.) they can leave the implant exposed with a “healing abutment” cap over the implant that you can visualize in your mouth or 2.) bury the implant with your gum tissue. If the implant is 2.) buried under gum tissue, a second surgical procedure, an uncover, will be necessary, after the implant has osseointegrated. At least three months after the initial surgery, the uncover will expose the implant and a healing abutment will be placed. Sometimes, more bone grafting and/or more gum grafting may be needed at the time of implant placement or after, during the uncover surgery. Next, please see section “Implant Restoration.”

Healing Time: The time needed for implants to heal is, at the very best, three months. If the quality of the bone is poor, or there is extensive bone or gum grafting performed prior to, during, or even after the implant placement surgery, the time required for implant healing and osseointegration can take even longer than 3 months, ranging from 4 months to 8 months.

Comprehensive Care: Your referring general dentist is responsible for overseeing your care outside of the implant surgery, including routine cleanings, restorative work (fillings and crowns), and placement of your final implant prosthetic. As with any other dental procedure, you are responsible for the maintenance of your implant and its associated prosthetic. Regular cleanings and fabrication of an occlusal guard (night guard) are necessary for the long-term success of your implant and its associated prosthetic.

Implant Restoration: Your referring general dentist will place the final implant prosthetic. For a single implant crown or implant bridge, at least two components are placed on top of the implant to make a functional prosthetic. These components are called the “abutment” (different from the surgeon’s healing abutment) and the “crown.” Your general dentist will take an impression, like a traditional crown impression, to locate the implant relative to the adjacent teeth, and send it to the lab. Finally, you will receive an implant prosthetic, which includes the abutment and the crown. They may be screwed or cemented onto the implant that is healed in your jawbone .

Implant Failure: Dental implants, bone grafts, and gum grafts can fail. While success rates are high, it is always important to acknowledge the chance of failure. Sometimes, after implants are placed, bone loss around the implant can occur. The quality of the bone around an implant is affected by risk factors for failure include but are not limited to smoking, periodontal disease, uncontrolled systemic disease including but not limited to diabetes, poor oral hygiene, poor follow-up care, and parafunctional grinding or clenching habits. In certain instances, the risk for

Kyle Diehl, PhD, DDS, MSD | Colleen Leong, DDS, MSD

2979 North Iola Street
Denver, CO 80238
(720) 703-9116
team@periocp.com



implant failure may be high enough for the surgeon to recommend against the use of implants as part of your treatment plan. There is no guarantee or warranty for the success of the implant and/or the implant-supported restoration.

Kyle Diehl, PhD, DDS, MSD | Colleen Leong, DDS, MSD

2979 North Iola Street
Denver, CO 80238
(720) 703-9116
team@periocp.com