



**accrington rd**  
dental centre of blackburn

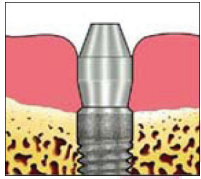
# **Implants**

## **What are they?**

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## What is an implant?

Implants are specially made posts that replace the roots of teeth that are missing. Implants can be used to support a new crown, fixed bridge or a denture. An implant is made of titanium which is a strong and lightweight material, this material has been shown to be compatible with the body and safe for use.



A titanium implant

## Why do we replace missing teeth?

Our teeth are a very important part of our digestive system and are needed for chewing food. Teeth also play a role in our speech and are a very important part of our appearance. Leaving spaces can cause movement of other teeth, new spaces within the dentition can then occur.



Before implant



After implant

## What are the advantages of having an implant?

An implant does not involve preparation of other teeth which is required for a bridge and unlike a denture, it is permanently fixed in the mouth. The implant helps to maintain the bone of the jaws which is lost when teeth are lost.

## What are the success rates for implants?

No one can ever guarantee success, but the procedure has been very well tested and has a success rate of 90% - 95% which compares well with crowns and bridges. There may be a need for minor re-servicing from time to time even in successful implants.

Occasionally, implants can fail to integrate with the bone and may require replacement.

## How long does the procedure take and what should I expect during surgery?

This depends on the complexity but a single implant will take about an hour. The procedure is carried out under local anaesthetic in our practice and there should be no discomfort during the procedure. After the surgery, some slight discomfort, swelling or bruising may be experienced but this can be controlled with painkillers.

## What is bone grafting in association with implants?

The successful placement of a dental implant depends on the presence of bone of sufficient quality and quantity. This is not always present in every patient following tooth loss. Various grafting techniques are available and may be required prior to implant placements.

## What is the cost of an implant?

The materials and techniques used in the placing of implants are fairly sophisticated, so this is reflected in the costs. An extensive assessment appointment will be required first. The assessment fee will include assessment for implants, x-rays, models and measurements.

After successful assessment, the charge for the implant can then be paid. This is inclusive of any crown provision and immediate post treatment follow-up. It does not include hygienist appointments.

## Is there an age limit to have an implant?

You can be too young for implants but age itself is not a barrier. The most important criteria are your general health and the condition of your teeth and gums. This will be discussed at your assessment.