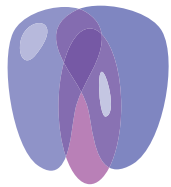


How must I look after my new implant dentures?

- Once your implants and surrounding soft tissues are seen to be healthy and your dentures are comfortable and correctly adjusted, it is the quality of your home care, and willingness to come and see us or your dentist for regular maintenance reviews, that will most influence how long they last. You are in control of your final implants day to day. Despite our efforts during planning and construction, if they are not well maintained at home, you can expect problems to occur just as they would with neglected natural teeth. It is your responsibility to maintain the implants and seek regular reviews for your implant teeth over the many years of good service that they will provide when properly cared for.
- When not cleaned properly, dental implants can develop a covering of deposits similar to that found on neglected natural teeth. Left untreated, these can lead to gum infection, bleeding, soreness and general discomfort, just as can occur around natural teeth. Remember - implants, much like natural teeth, will last for as long as you care for them. Well-maintained implants, placed into adequate bone, can be expected to last for many years. However, just as with other surgical implants such as hip replacements, there is no lifetime guarantee.
- Just as natural teeth can develop gum disease, leading to the gradual loss of the supporting bone over time, completed implants can develop a similar pattern of gradual bone loss if they are not kept very carefully clean. Failure to keep your implants clean can lead to gradual bone loss around your implants. This may result in deterioration in the appearance of the implants in the short term and loosening and failure of the implants in the longer term.
- Some groups of patients can expect a higher level of this type of implant failure. These include smokers, patients with poorly controlled diabetes, heavy drinkers and patients with a history of advanced gum disease. For these patients it is very important to have a more rigorous programme of care with a hygienist and regular reviews with a dentist who is familiar with implants to monitor home care and possible changes exceptionally carefully.
- Dental plaque is very abrasive so keeping the metal components inside your mouth and denture will also reduce wear. If not kept very clean, they can wear out prematurely and require costly replacement.



Stephen Franks
DENTAL IMPLANTOLOGY

PATIENT INFORMATION: Looking after my New Implant Dentures

- We recommend cleaning the metal attachments inside your mouth with Corsodyl gel rather than with toothpaste. A small amount of this can be placed on your brush and the attachments carefully cleaned twice a day. The denture can be cleaned with soap and water.
- The replaceable plastic liners inside your denture are designed to wear out with time, protecting the metal components. These are relatively inexpensive and will need replacement every six months to two years depending on the heaviness of your bite. In common with normal dentures, you can expect that your implant supported dentures will require maintenance, repair and possibly replacement with time. We will normally not charge for any repairs etc for the first 24 months after fitting (this excludes damage from trauma or caused by dropping the denture).
- It is best not to wear your dentures at night. Where this is unavoidable it is critical to thoroughly clean your dentures before going to bed. This will help prevent oral thrush from developing.

Tell us what you think

Now that your treatment with us is complete, I hope that you are happy with the results and I wondered if you would be kind enough to allow us to tell other people of your experience.

We believe that our patients' feedback is really important in ensuring that we provide the best possible service and it is also extremely reassuring and helpful for potential patients to hear of others' experiences. If you feel you could help us in this way, I've included a few questions to help you get started, but please feel free to write whatever you like - I would be very grateful.

- What advice would you give others who are considering treatment with dental implants?
- Has this treatment changed your life and if so, in what ways?
- What did you think of our service to you and what was your overall experience of your treatment?
- Would you recommend Dr Franks to others?

Please email your comments to: info@stephenfranks.dental