

Dental Implants - Risks and Benefits

Do Implants Work?

Implants are generally 90-95% successful, although as with any surgical procedure, there is no guarantee of success. It is anticipated that if your implants are successful, they will function successfully for many years, if not for the remainder of your life. Please be aware that the success of dental implant treatment depends on many factors including: good general health, excellent oral care, lack of excessive stress on the loaded implants and ongoing follow-up care of your implants and attached crowns.

Your Nobel Biocare implant is under warranty for a period of up to 10 years. In the event of implant failure, it is our policy to replace a failed implant at a nominal cost of \$300. If additional bone materials or bone rebuilding surgery is required, appropriate surgical fees will apply. In order to qualify for the warranty, you must attend an annual implant check up and x-ray. A small fee of approximately \$75 will apply.

Surgical Fees and Treatment Plan Changes

A treatment plan and fee estimate for our proposed services has been reviewed with you. Your copy is enclosed. The estimate includes our professional fees for the surgical aspects of implant placement as well as the cost of the surgical implant hardware. Our estimate does not include the cost of the restorative parts necessary for your dentist to complete the implant restoration (crown/denture) after successful implant healing. Please be sure to obtain an estimate from your dentist as well.

Please note that occasionally, upon surgical entry into a site, it becomes necessary to change the treatment plan, which results in a change in the estimate we provided you with. An example would be insufficient bone for implant placement, or anatomical obstacles preventing the placement of an implant. Although we do our best to provide you with an accurate estimate, it is only an estimate. Dr. Galler will advise you if he encounters a need to change the treatment plan. You will have the option to proceed or abort the procedure. If you proceed, you will be responsible for the payment of the additional fees. If you abort, a surgical set up and entry fee of approximately \$600 will be billed to you. We take every possible precaution to avoid such changes, however in medicine and dentistry such occurrences are not completely unavoidable. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

If you require bone grafting, you should be aware that our clinic prefers to use high end human bone graft material obtained through medical bone banks. Occasionally, when clinical situations allow, we can also use bovine or synthetic bone. Please ask any questions you may have about the bone products we use. We are happy to provide you with literature on the bone graft material we use in our office.

Prior to implant surgery, a panorex x-ray will be needed for proper preparation. If your dentist does not have a Panorex machine we will refer you to a nearby radiology clinic. If there is a concern about sufficient bone levels for implant placement, a CT scan may also be required. You will be advised of this during your initial consultation with us.

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Following the placement of implants in your jawbone, a period of 3-6 months or sometimes longer is required to achieve successful osseointegration (healing into the bone) of the implants. Post-operative appointments aid in successful healing. Please attend all appointments as they are scheduled for you. [The first 6 weeks of check ups are free of charge. Afterwards, a small fee of up to \\$75 will apply and is included in your estimate for you.](#)

Restorative Treatment with Your Dentist

All aspects of the surgical phases of treatment will be performed by Dr. Cary Galler. Once healed, you will be referred back to your referring dentist to carry out the restorative aspects of implant care (adding the “tooth”). [Every effort will be made to ensure a satisfactory surgical result. In some cases, however, the position and angulation of the implants placed in your mouth may be slightly variant from their ideal position.](#) This may require a modification in the restorative parts used by your dentist to complete your case. Please be aware that your dentist may have not accounted for such contingency in your implant restorative estimate.

Healing times may vary, particularly if any additional procedures are performed with the implants, you are a smoker, your immune system is compromised etc. [Complete post operative instructions will be provided to you on the day of surgery.](#) Generally, you may require a few days convalescence. Sutures will be placed during surgery and removed approximately 10 days later. During this period, you will be required to eat softer foods and avoid extremely spicy foods. You will be able to carry on normal day to day functions and return to work.

It is important to realize that implants can develop gum problems similar to your natural teeth. [Anything that may irritate oral tissues such as alcohol use, smoking, or chewing tobacco, may promote tissue breakdown and lead to implant failure.](#) Therefore, it is important to maintain excellent oral hygiene and follow our instructions regarding home care and follow-up visits. If bone or tissue breakdown occurs, it is important to treat it or remove the implant before damage to the surrounding bone can occur.

Risks Associated With Dental Implants

No technical surgery is without possible complications. The placement of a dental implant may result in post-operative bleeding, swelling, bruising or infection. There have been few cases reported in the dental literature in which there is temporary loss of nerve sensation or a tingling sensation in the jaw following certain surgical procedures. In extremely rare instances complete nerve sensation has not returned even after many years. There is also a slight risk of temporary or permanent tingling or numbness of lips, chin and facial areas as well as possible injury to bone and or teeth in affected areas. [It has been our experience that most patients are able to return to normal activities and back to work the day after treatment with minimal discomfort. We anticipate that you will likely experience similar post operative results.](#)

As always, we welcome your questions, comments and concerns. Our goal is to help you make an informed treatment decision that best suits you. Feel free to speak with us today!