

Consent for Implant and Bone Grafting Surgeries

What are Dental Implants?

Dental implants are titanium posts shaped like tooth roots. Implants provide a strong foundation for fixed (permanent) or removable replacement teeth that are made to match your natural teeth.

Implants differ from other replacements in that they are anchored in and supported by the jawbone. While there are important differences, they function more like your natural teeth. They may be used as a single tooth replacement or for multiple tooth replacement as anchors for fixed bridges, for removable partial and full dentures.

The implants are placed surgically. Usually under local anesthetic, the gum tissue is reflected, precise drilling of holes in the jawbone is performed to accommodate the implants (cylindrical metal posts) which are immediately placed in them. The surgical site is then closed. The second surgical procedure occurs three to eight months later. The implants are then evaluated for healing and successful integration with the bone. Some revisions may have to be made at this time. If the implant failed to integrate, it will have to be removed and alternative treatments considered, such as a change of the site or implant. If the implant has successfully integrated, a post is placed into the implant, extending through the gum tissue into the mouth. In the final prosthetic phase, a metal sleeve is threaded into the implant to anchor the crown, bridge or denture. The prosthetic (replacement crown, bridge or denture) fee is separate from the surgical fee.

What is a Bone Graft?

Dental bone grafting procedures are done to restore your bone to its previous form following tooth loss, gum disease or trauma. Bone grafting may also be used to maintain bone structure after tooth extraction.

Graft material will be placed in the socket, and areas of bone loss around the teeth/implant. Various types of graft materials may be used. These materials may include my own bone, synthetic bone substitutes, other mammal sources, or bone obtained from a tissue bank (allografts). These grafts are thoroughly purified by different means to be free from contaminants. I understand some patients don't respond successfully to bone regenerative procedures. Because each patient's conditions is unique, long term success may not occur. In rare cases the involved implant/bone graft may ultimately be lost. Signing this consent form gives your approval for the Doctor to use such materials according to his knowledge and clinical judgment for your situation.

Alternatives to Implants

As implied above, alternatives to implant replacement may be fixed bridgework, removable partial and complete dentures. Infected teeth with sound roots and bone support may be treated by endodontic (root canal) therapy and restored with a post and crown. If presently wearing an ill-fitting denture, it should be replaced with a new one or relined for a better fit to keep the supporting tissue healthy. Non-replacement of missing teeth will usually cause movement of teeth, resulting in a collapsed bite, the correction of which may be difficult and costly.

Risks

Surgical risks include, but are not limited to: post surgical infection, bleeding, swelling, pain, facial discoloration, sinus or nasal perforation, bone graft failure, TMJ injuries, spasms, bone fracture, poor healing, numbness (paresthesia) of the lip, chin and tongue, (which is usually temporary, but, on occasion, may be permanent), gum recession (shrinkage), and unaesthetic exposure of crown margins of teeth in the surgery area.

The prosthetic risks include, but are not limited to: unsuccessful integration of the implant to the bone, fracture of the implant components, and interference with phonetics (speech sounds). If a separate surgical procedure is necessary to remove a failed implant or if a replacement is necessary due to changed prosthetic requirements, an additional fee may be charged.

Unanticipated Conditions

During the course of treatment, unknown oral conditions may modify or change the original treatment plan. This possibility necessitates consent for the treating doctor, in consultation with the patient, if possible, to use the best judgment in consideration of the new found conditions.

Summary

You have been provided a general overview of implants and bone grafting. Implants have about an 85% success rate with various factors influencing the outcome. The benefits, as well as the risks, have been discussed. The alternatives to implant replacement have also been discussed, as well as the consequence of non-replacement. No discussion or form can be all inclusive and you are encouraged to ask questions regarding any concerns or needed clarifications, to enable you to make an informed decision. Dentistry is not an exact science. Every individual is unique and guarantees of success cannot be made. Due to individual patient differences there exists a risk of failure, relapse, selective re-treatment, or worsening of my present condition despite the best of care.

I have been informed that implant placement is to replace missing teeth, and bone grafting is to preserve and/or add bone to the supporting jaw bones.

I understand that long-term success requires my continued performance daily home care, and my availability for periodic professional cleanings and care.

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE TERMS AND WORDS WITHIN THE ABOVE CONSENT AND ANY EXPLANATIONS MADE. I UNDERSTAND THAT I MAY ASK ANY QUESTIONS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER SURGERY.

Tooth/teeth involved in treatment: _____

Patient Signature _____

Date _____

Witness Signature _____

Date _____