

HOW LONG WILL AN IMPLANT LAST?

Dental implants are made from exceptionally strong materials and are engineered to withstand biting forces with a considerable margin of safety. While fracture of an implant seldom occurs, it is possible. Aside from such mechanical failures, most problems associated with dental implants relate to breakdown of the tissues surrounding the implants. Three conditions can contribute to the loss of tissue around an implant. These are local conditions, systemic conditions, and overloading of the implant.

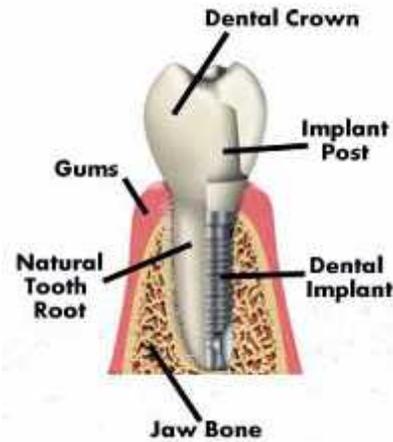
Local conditions: Bacteria can accumulate around a dental implant just as they can around a tooth. When bacteria are allowed to remain around a tooth, the gum becomes inflamed and there is eventual destruction of the bone supporting the tooth. An implant is usually easier to clean than the tooth it replaced, but if neglected, damage to the supporting tissues can be expected as well.

Systemic conditions: Any systemic condition which prevents the body from repairing bone or other supporting tissues can result in the eventual loss of support for the implant. Such conditions as osteoporosis, collagen diseases, uncontrolled diabetes, frequent use of tobacco, excessive alcohol or drug consumption, or any debilitating disease can prevent the body from repairing itself. When these conditions exist, the implant cannot be expected to survive as long as it otherwise would.

Overloading: Whenever any structure is overloaded, something will have to give. Emotional stress can cause severe damage not only to the tissues supporting the teeth, but also to the tissues supporting the implant. Emotional stress can result in clenching, or grinding with considerable force for long periods of time. Emotional stress can also change body chemistry, causing a systemic condition, which leaves the supporting tissues more susceptible to breakdown.

BOTTOM LINE

What all of this means is that if the implant is kept clean, the body is kept healthy, and stress is controlled, then the implant should provide service for many years. Obviously, all of these conditions are not met by all people all of the time. Nevertheless, our overall success rate for implants is 95% at 5 years. The overall 15-year success rate for implants is over 85%. The average life of the dental implants currently used appears to be in excess of 20 years. It is impossible to know ahead of time how long any particular implant will last and the above numbers cannot in any way be construed as a guarantee.



HOW LONG DOES TREATMENT TAKE?

From the time of the initial consultation, until the time of implantation, will usually require 4 to 8 weeks. During this time, your oral condition will be diagnosed and a treatment plan will be developed, the implant(s) selected, and any pre-implant treatment performed. After the implant is surgically placed it is usually allowed to heal for 3 to 6 months prior to starting the final prosthetic reconstruction, allowing time for the bone to fill in around the implant. Not all implants "take," or integrate to the bone, and it is sometimes necessary to remove them or repair their surrounding tissues within 1 to 3 years of placement. If early loss occurs, the implant can usually be successfully replaced.

After treatment is completed, we will want to see you at regular intervals one or more times per year in order to examine your implant and its surrounding tissues. Prescribed oral hygiene appointments are important for long-term health and longevity of implants, as it is with teeth.

WHAT RISKS ARE THERE?

All surgical procedures have certain risks. Surgery on the lower jawbone, carries a very small risk of damage to the nerve, which supplies sensation to the lower lip, resulting in a change or loss of feeling in the lower lip and chin. This can vary from tingling, itching, feeling cold/hot, or feeling partially or completely numb. Such damage is not likely to occur, though if it does occur, the feeling will usually return gradually to its normal state within a few months, though in rare occasion, the resulting numbness could last for many years or be a permanent change. Similar damage can occur to the nerve from the tongue, but this is rare. Surgery on the upper jaw can result in similar nerve damage to the corner of the nose. Placement of implants in the upper jaw can result in perforations into the nasal sinuses. Such damage is very unlikely, though if it does occur, it will usually heal uneventfully. It may require antibiotic therapy or, in unusual cases, surgical correction. Whenever an implant is placed near an existing tooth it is possible that the tooth root may be damaged during the preparation of the bone to receive the implant. While such damage is extremely unlikely, it would probably heal uneventfully, though it is possible it could result in the loss of the tooth. If a lesion develops around an implant and is neglected, it could spread to an adjacent tooth and cause loss of support for the tooth, or in the same manner, neglect of a lesion around an adjacent tooth can result in loss of bone support for an implant. Other surgical risks are bleeding, bruising, infections, and swelling.

While these complications are remotely possible, Jackson Creek Dental believes in reducing risk in whatever ways possible using the most advanced surgical techniques and technologies. Whenever possible, this includes employing **guided implant surgery** using 3D X-ray imaging combined with computer guided virtual placement to analyze and prepare for surrounding risks. While this technology slightly increases overall cost, it virtually eliminates the above mentioned risks.



For a consultation to answer questions about dental implants, please call us

(209) 223-2712



Dental
Implants



Jackson Creek
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