



Informed Consent for Dental Implants

Diagnosis. After careful oral examination and study of my dental condition, my doctor has advised me that my missing tooth or teeth may be replaced with artificial teeth supported by an implant.

Recommended Treatment. In order to treat my condition, my doctor has recommended the use of root form dental implants. I understand that the procedure for root form implants involves placing implants into the jawbone. This procedure has a surgical phase followed by a prosthetic phase.

Surgical Phase of Procedures. I understand that sedation may be utilized and that a local anaesthetic will be administered to me as part of the treatment. My gum tissues will be opened to expose the bone. Implants will be placed by tapping or threading them in to holes that have been drilled into my jawbone. The implants will have to be snugly fitted and held tightly in place during the healing phase.

The gum and soft tissues will be stitched closed over or around the implants. A periodontal bandage or dressing may be placed. Healing will be allowed to proceed for a period of four to six months. I understand the dentures usually cannot be worn during the first one to two weeks of the healing phase.

I further understand that if clinical conditions turn out to be unfavourable for the use of this implant system or prevent the placement of implants, my doctor will make a professional judgment on the management of the situation. The procedure also may involve supplemental bone grafts or other types of grafts to build up the ridge of my jaw and thereby to assist in placement, closure, and security of my implants.

For implants requiring a second surgical procedure, the overlying tissues will be opened at the appropriate time, and the stability of the implant will be verified. If the implant appears satisfactory, an attachment will be connected to the implant. Plans and procedures to create an implant prosthetic appliance can then begin.

Prosthetic Phase of Procedure. This phase is just as important as the surgical phase for the long-term success of the oral reconstruction. During this phase, an implant prosthetic device will be attached to the implant.

Expected Benefits. The purpose of dental implants is to allow me to have more functional artificial teeth. The implants provide support, anchorage, and retention for these teeth.

Principal Risks and Complications. I understand that some patients do not respond successfully to dental implants, and in such cases, the implant may be lost. Implant surgery may not be successful in providing artificial teeth. Because each patient's condition is unique, long-term success may not occur.

I understand that complications may result from the implant surgery, drugs, and anesthetics. These complications include, but are not limited to:

- Post surgical infection
- Bleeding
- Swelling
- Pain
- Facial discoloration
- Transient but on occasion permanent numbness of the lip, tongue, teeth, chin, or gum
- Jaw joint injuries or associated muscle spasm
- Transient but on occasion permanent increased tooth looseness
- Tooth sensitivity to hot, cold, sweet, or acidic foods
- Shrinkage of the gum upon healing resulting in elongation of some teeth and greater spaces between some teeth
- Cracking or bruising of the corners of the mouth
- Restricted ability to open the mouth for several days or weeks
- Impact on speech
- Allergic reactions
- Injury to teeth
- Bone fractures
- Nasal sinus penetrations
- Delayed healing
- Accidental swallowing of foreign matter

The exact duration of any complications cannot be determined, and they may be irreversible.

I understand that the design and structure of the prosthetic appliance can be a substantial factor in the success or failure of the implant. I further understand that alterations made on the artificial appliance or the implant can lead to loss of the appliance or implant. This loss would be the sole responsibility of the person making such alterations. I am advised that the connection between the implant and the tissue may fail and that it may become necessary to remove the implant. This can happen in the preliminary phase, during the initial integration of the implant to the bone, or at any time thereafter. Any fixture that fails to integrate will be removed. At that time either a new fixture will be placed (followed by another three to six month healing time) or the prosthesis will be constructed on those fixtures that remain.

Crown & Bridge. The screws attaching the prosthesis to the fixture may loosen with time. They will need to be tightened if this occurs. Over time, the restorations may be required to be remade. This incurs additional expenses.

Over-Dentures. Denture teeth can wear down due to occlusal forces and may need to be replaced with time. The denture base may also need to be relined over time. 'Housings' and 'O-Rings' are components within the denture that will need to be periodically replaced. This means your denture may be removed for a few days. This would incur additional expenses.

Alternative to Suggested Treatment. Alternative treatments for missing teeth include no treatment, new removable appliances, and other procedures—depending on the circumstances. These include other surgical options like Zygoma Implants and All on 4 Dentures. Fixed Implant options such as a Fixed Porcelain Bridge and a Fixed Hybrid Denture have been discussed as well. However, continued wearing of ill-fitting and loose removable appliances can result in further damage to the bone and soft tissue of my mouth.

Necessary Follow-up Care and Self-Care. I understand that it is important for me to continue to see my dentist. Implants, natural teeth, and appliances have to be maintained daily in a clean, hygienic manner. Implants and appliances must also be examined periodically and may need to be adjusted. I understand that it is important for me to abide by the specific prescriptions and instructions given by my doctor.

Smoking. I understand that smoking or alcohol intake may adversely affect gum healing and may limit the successful outcome of my surgery. It is advised that smoking be ceased for as long as possible in the weeks surrounding the surgery – preferably 8 weeks before and 8 weeks after surgery. Nicotine patches can be used to aid this process. Smoking can seriously impede healing and integration of dental implants and bone/sinus grafts.

No Warranty or Guarantee. I hereby acknowledge that no guarantee, warranty, or assurance has been given to me that the proposed treatment will be successful. Due to individual patient differences, a doctor cannot predict certainty of success. There exists the risk of failure, relapse, additional treatment, or worsening of my present condition, including the possible loss of certain teeth, despite the best of care. However, it is anticipated that the implant will be permanently retained.

Publication of Records. I authorize photos, slides, x-rays, or any other viewings of my care and treatment during or after its completion to be used for the advancement of dentistry and for reimbursement purposes. My identity will not be revealed to the general public, however, without my permission.

I have been fully informed of the nature of root form implant surgery, the procedure to be utilized, the risks and benefits of the surgery, the alternative treatments available, and the necessity for follow-up care and self care. I have had an opportunity to ask any questions I may have in connection with the treatment and to discuss my concerns with my doctor. After thorough deliberation, I hereby consent to the performance of dental implant surgery as presented to me during consultation and in the treatment plan presentation as described in this document.

I also consent to the use of an alternative implant system or method if clinical conditions are found to be unfavourable for the use of the implant systems that has been described to me. If clinical conditions prevent the placement of implants, I defer to my doctor's judgment on the surgical management of that situation. I also give my permission to receive supplemental bone grafts or other types of grafts to build up the ridge of my jaw and thereby to assist in placement, closure, and security of my implants. I also approve any modification in design, materials or care, if it is felt this is for my best interest.

Patient Name

Patient Signature

Date