

## Care and Maintenance for Dental Implants

Today we have fitted your implant crown which brings to an end the restorative stages of your treatment. The crown on your implant is very similar to a crown made for a regular tooth. The difference is that it is connected to an abutment, so it is a metal to porcelain, or porcelain to porcelain connection rather than a connection to tooth structure. This interface will therefore not decay, so your implant crown may well last longer than a crown on a natural tooth. However, it is still susceptible to chipping and breakage should you knock it heavily enough, chew something too hard or simply expose it to many years of use. There is also the possibility that you may need to replace your crown purely for cosmetic reasons as the teeth around it age and change colour, but your implant crown stays the same in appearance.

All implants are susceptible to a form of periodontal disease, though fortunately it is not too common. Therefore, it is important that we ensure your implant remains healthy and to achieve this, we would like to see you for an initial 1 month review, and then each 12 months thereafter. At these review appointments, we will check the health of the soft tissue collar around your implant, and ensure the bite remains even and does not overload the implant. Periodically, we will radiograph the site to ensure the bone levels are normal around the implant. The cost of these appointments is small for the peace of mind of knowing your implant is healthy. If anything untoward is ever detected, it may be very simple to address it early. Should anything unforeseen happen to your implant and crown in the first few years, we will ensure there are little to no out of pocket expenses to you, as the implant and crown manufacturers offer a “warranty” for the first five years. Whilst we may perform some cleaning around the implant and immediate area, these appointments are not a substitute for regular check-ups with your General Dentist and so you should also continue to see your Dentist as they suggest. You should thus consider our reviews as additional to your regular dental care.

We look forward to welcoming you back to our practice and helping with the care of your implant. If you ever have any questions or concerns, then please do not hesitate to contact us.



Radiograph of two healthy implants



The two implants as they appear in perfect health