

Restoring Implants

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1. What will the final restoration look like?

Very Important question!!!! Most patients do not have any idea what an implant restoration looks like. They are expecting their old teeth back and it doesn't work like that. If you can see some of the work they have done, all the better. The heart of this web site is the Patient Treatment Menu which has about a hundred different examples of Dental Implant Restorations. . .

2. What will the final restoration feel like?

As important as the appearance is the "feel" of the restoration. Some of these implant restorations are very different from real teeth and it takes some doing to get used to the feel and function of them. This is worth knowing going into the treatment.

3. Is the final restoration considered permanent?

While the dental implant itself is considered permanent, the restoration may or may not be. Ask if this restoration will have to be repaired or modified or even replaced in the future... Most of them will...

4. What are the advantages of a non-removable restoration?

Non-removable restorations usually give the patient a better sense of having a permanent tooth replacement. They are harder to clean and more difficult to repair or modify.

5. What are the advantages of a removable restorations?

Removable restorations are much easier to clean and to service. They may not be as stable as a non-removable restoration. They are generally easier to fabricate and they are less costly than non-removable restorations. Sometimes, they are better at supporting the soft tissues of the mouth.

6. How easy will it be to care for this prosthesis?

This is something most people forget to consider. There is a lot of "Hardware" in dental implant restorations and some of them are difficult to clean and maintain. You should know what you are up against from the beginning.

7. How durable is the prosthesis?

One of the most frustrating things about dental implant restorations is breakage. Breakage of the implants is a very serious problem which should always be avoided, but the nature of the dental prosthesis makes it possible for breakage to occur from time to time. You should know what the dentist's experience has been with the particular prosthesis that you are getting. Remember, the dentist want to minimize breakage just as much as you do, but it should be discussed...

8. What happens if something breaks?

If something that I do breaks or fails in the first year, I replace it at no additional charge. If something breaks or fails within the next four years, I replace it for only the laboratory fee. If something breaks due to a trauma (someone hits you in the mouth) or an accident then you are on your own...

9. How costly will it be to repair or service the prosthesis?

Every dental prosthesis will need some form of repair or servicing in the future. Find out up front what you will be in store for...

10. Will I ever have to go without my "teeth"?

There are some circumstances where you might be without teeth for a short period of time. If this is the case in your treatment, you should be apprised of this right up front. Most people will not have to go without teeth during implant treatment.

11. How often have you done this?

Just as for the surgeon who is going to place your dental implants, you should know how much experience your restorative dentist has in making these "teeth". How often does he or she work with dental implants and how long has he or she been doing this...