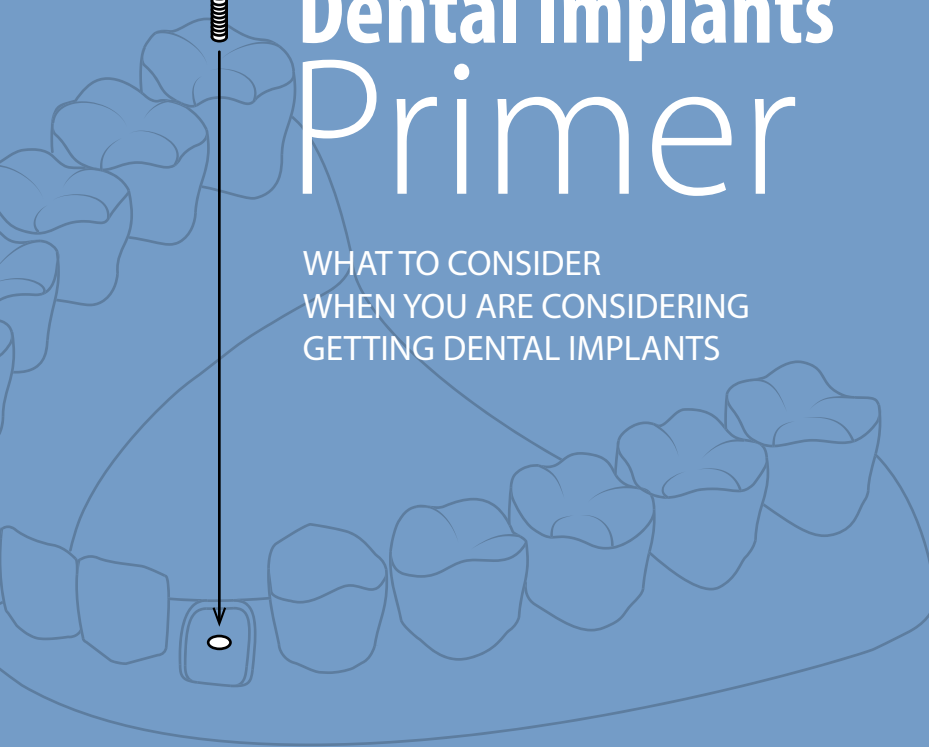




# Dental Implants Primer

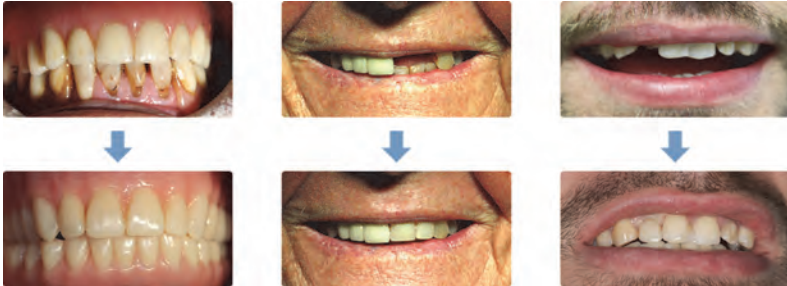
WHAT TO CONSIDER  
WHEN YOU ARE CONSIDERING  
GETTING DENTAL IMPLANTS



FREMANTLE  IMPLANTS

A SOUTH STREET DENTAL CENTRE SERVICE

# Making an Informed Investment



A dental implant is a significant investment in effort and cost.

The multiple procedures involved can be complicated and, like all surgery, can carry some risks.

We care about helping you make informed and considered decisions; so that your implant will stand the best chance of looking good and working well for many years to come.

The information presented in this guide is general knowledge and must not be taken as medical advice specific to your situation.

Your situation is unique. We can only provide information and recommendations specific for you when you come in for a consultation. The result of individual treatments will vary.

This information herein may change without prior notification.

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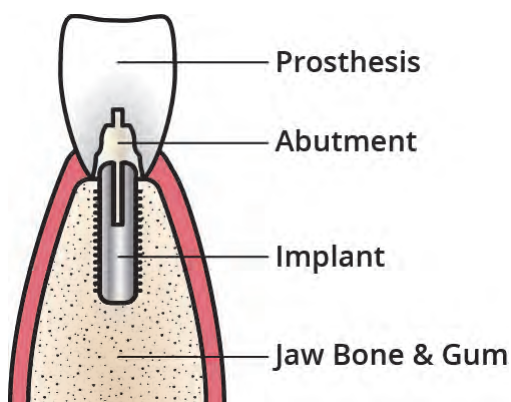
# What is a Dental Implant?

Dental implantation is a breakthrough technique that can permanently restore the function and look of missing teeth. Nothing comes close to the realism of form and function of a dental implant.

A dental implant is an “artificial root” that is set into the jaw completely independent of other teeth. This gives the dental implant a secure fit with a very realistic look; without affect the surrounding teeth.

Dental implants can replace teeth, anchor dentures, and preserve jaw bone from atrophy to prevent facial collapse and premature ageing.

The diagram below shows the key components of a dental implant:



# Benefits

When placed by an experienced practitioner and with ongoing diligent hygiene maintenance, dental implants can last a long time.

**Improve appearance:** Not just of your teeth, but your entire face. Dental implants can prevent premature ageing from jaw bone loss and facial collapse.

**Improve confidence:** Research shows more than 90% of implant patients experience a positive confidence boost.

**Save existing teeth:** Unlike traditional dental bridges, implants leave your existing teeth untouched.

**Prevent bite changes:** Implants will prevent the surrounding teeth from shifting out of place or loosening.

**Remove denture discomfort:** Implant-supported dentures are highly stable as they are anchored in the jaw. Patients find them more comfortable than removable dentures. No more sore spots or irritation.

**Preserve speech:** Traditional dentures require constant work by the cheek and tongue muscles to keep them in place. Implants behave like permanent teeth so they don't affect speech.

**Improve eating:** Unlike implants, even the best dentures will decrease eating efficiency. Implants are better anchored in the jaw and can significantly improve eating.

**Convenience:** Dental implants stay in place permanently without the need for pastes and glues.

# Facial Collapse

When teeth are knocked out or extracted (and not replaced with implants) the body will consider the jaw bone at the site of the missing teeth to be useless. It will begin to demineralise the bone, so as to re-use the minerals elsewhere in the body.

Over a period of ten to twenty years, the patient will end up with a condition called facial collapse which leads to premature ageing. This loss of bone can increase the likelihood of fractures. It can also render the patient unable to wear a denture.

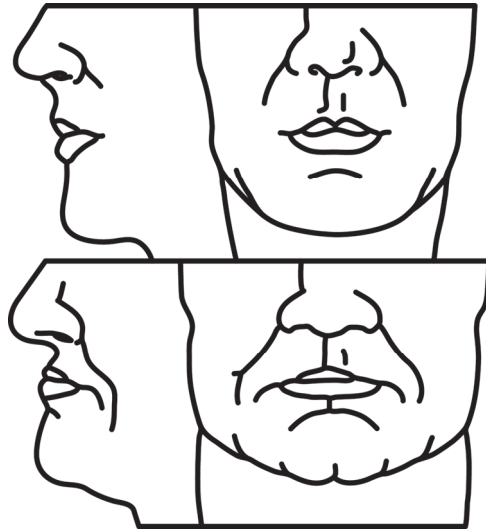


Diagram courtesy of Dr. Carl E. Misch, sourced from his textbook *Dental Implant Prosthetics*

Facial collapse is a cause of premature ageing. The lips sink and pucker and facial wrinkles become more prominent.

# Treatment Process

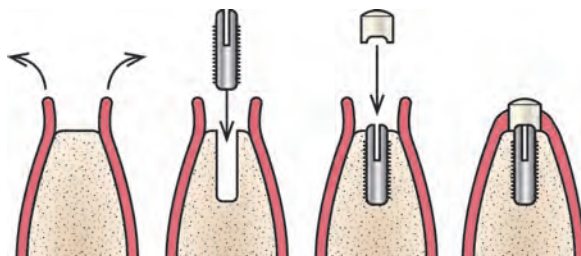
A typical implant treatment has three phases:

## Treatment Phase 1: Consultation

Consultations to assess your health and plan your treatment. We put a lot of emphasis on planning to minimise errors and mitigate risks.

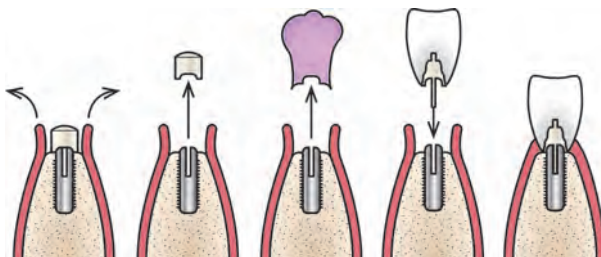
## Treatment Phase 2: Surgery

Surgery to place the implant and healing abutment. Depending on your situation, surgery can take one or two stages. Healing time can range from two to three months.



## Treatment Phase 3: Prosthesis

Appointments to fabricate and place the final abutment and prosthesis. This takes about two weeks.



# Adjunct Surgical Procedures

In addition to the implant surgery, you may need other surgical procedures to ensure the success of your implant.

## **Bone Regeneration (Bone Grafts)**

Bone grafting is necessary when there is insufficient jaw bone to accommodate the implant and ensure osseointegration.

Bone substitute is packed into the site with the deficiency. Your natural bone will then grow into and replace this grafted material.

## **Sinus Regeneration**

If your sinus wall is very thin, it can be impossible to predictably place dental implants into your upper jaw bone.

A sinus regeneration, or sinus “lift”, aims to increase the amount of bone separating the floor of the sinus from the upper jawbone.

The surgeon cuts a “window” to the sinus, which is covered by a thin membrane. Bone graft material is placed under this membrane.

## **Soft Tissue Regeneration**

For an implant to look aesthetically pleasing and remain viable over the long term, a band of full, plump gingiva is needed to fill in the space on either side of the implant.

There are several methods that can be used to transplant soft tissue, with the donor site usually being the palate.

# Candidate Suitability

Getting dental implants is a major decision with long term implications for your health.

We take a lot of time to understand your situation and needs, to carefully determine your suitability for the procedure, before any procedure is performed.

Ideally, a patient who is considering dental implant surgery will:

- Be in good oral and overall health.
- Be free from periodontal disease.
- Have sufficiently dense bone tissue in their jaw.
- Not be a smoker, or be willing to give up smoking, especially during the osseointegration period.
- Be willing to seek treatment for medical conditions and modify behaviours that may negatively impact the treatment.
- Be committed to healthy lifestyle habits, a good oral hygiene regimen, and routine dental visits post-surgery.

The success of the procedure will be based in part on your compliance and diligence before and after surgery.

The best way to understand whether dental implants are suited to your situation is to come in and see Dr Chan for a consultation.

# Selecting a Practitioner

Here is a checklist of key things to look out for:

## **Hold Relevant Accredited Qualifications**

Are they actually qualified to perform implants and the related adjunct surgeries?

Are they willing to refer you to qualified specialists when needed?

Do they stay current with their professional development?

Dentists cannot market themselves as “implantologists” or “implant specialists.”

## **Solid Track Record**

Do they have a track record of placing implants successfully?

Or are they just learning to do it?

## **Empower You**

Are they prepared to spend time with you answering your questions?

Do they provide you with information you can use to make decisions?

Are they happy for you to get a second opinion?

## **Acknowledge the Complexities**

Do they appreciate the complexity of implant procedures?

Or do they dismiss it as “easy” and “simple”?

Do they make decisions that take into account the long term goal of the implant and your needs?

### **Acknowledge the Risks**

Are they able, and willing to openly discuss risks with you?

Or do they pretend there are no risks, or minimise your concerns?

### **Not Rushing or Selling Shortcuts**

Do they take the time to understand your needs, plan your treatment, check and recheck measurements?

Or are they selling “cheap”, “fast” or “instant” implants?

Do they give you time to consider your options?

Or do they seem overly eager to just get on with performing procedures on you?

### **Employ Professional Facilities and Procedures**

Do they have the right facilities to perform implant and related surgeries?

Or are they pressing general dental equipment into service?

Do they short-cut potentially risky procedures such as NOT using a qualified anaesthetist to administer IV anaesthesia?

Do they use articulators to communicate with dental laboratories?

Do they use surgical guides to maximise success?

Do they use up-to-date technologies like 3D imaging, visualisation and surgery planning software?

### **Use Quality Materials and Suppliers**

Do they use quality, clinically proven materials from leading manufacturers?

Do they use certified and qualified dental laboratories and suppliers?

# Beware of Shortcuts

Some practitioners will take shortcuts to lower their prices; such as:

- Reducing the time and effort spent on treatment planning.
- Rushing to surgically place implants before designing the prosthesis or comprehensively reviewing the patient's overall health situation.
- Not using articulators to communicate detailed information to dental laboratories.
- Skipping the use of surgical guides and just eyeballing the implant placements.
- Using unbranded implants or taking a "mix and match" approach of sourcing components from different manufacturers for a given patient.
- Using dental laboratories that outsource the work to unknown and unaccredited overseas fabricators.

Shortcuts greatly increase the risk of costly surgical errors, implant failures and potential long term damage to your health.

# About Dr Henry Chan

**Master of Science (MSc.) in Oral Implantology (Goethe University, Frankfurt)**  
**BDS (UWA) PGDipDImplantology (NSW)**



Dr Henry Chan's dedication to the wellbeing of his patients and his impressive credentials make him a recognised expert in all aspects of placing dental implants.

Dr Chan has been an active advocate of dental implants since 2006 as a way of fundamentally improving the quality of life for suitable patients. He has devoted most of his professional life to the study and practice of implant placement, bone and sinus graft surgery.

His extensive specialist education continually exceeds the state's requirements.

His studies have taken him around the globe to the best training institutes. He has completed postgraduate courses in London, Paris and Brazil.

Henry spent many years of travel to Germany during which he completed a systematic review for his thesis on the impact of Bisphosphonates in implant dentistry. In 2015 he was awarded with a Master of Science of Oral Implantology by the prestigious Goethe University of Frankfurt.

# Contact Us

If you wish to seek a second option, we are more than happy to make available copies of your X-rays, records, and study models for the other practitioner's perusal.

If you are currently seeing a general dentist, you can request a referral from them to see Dr Chan about getting implants. For added convenience, we can directly request your dental history from your referring dentist.

Fremantle Implants is a  
South Street Dental Centre service.

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