

TOOTHFULLY. *speaking*



Dr. Preeti Desai

DENTAL IMPLANTS?! IS IT THE END OF YOUR PROBLEMS?

Recently I had a patient consult on an infected dental implant. Reviewing the causes of implant infection with her...she was shocked to hear that an implant could get infected or even have a problem! She was led to believe that once an implant replaces a tooth - only happy days ahead! Wrong! Dental implants do have a high success rate - but those remaining in the mouth after 10 years are 10-20% less than those placed in people's mouths! Survival only occurs if done according to strict protocol and guidelines:

1. Absence of Gum Disease - Worldwide, people lose their teeth more often due to gum disease. More importantly though, they lose the bone that used to hold the tooth in your jaw. Once this bone is lost, foundation work is necessary to regain this bone in order to place dental implants. But most importantly if you have natural teeth still remaining with gum disease, this will infect the dental implant reducing implant success by 20%!

2. Oral Care and Flossing - Dental implants need to be taken care of just like natural teeth, this diligence cannot be ignored as you can with natural teeth. Dental implants are not forgiving like natural teeth... once you get plaque and tartar around dental implants - the bone will unzip much faster than teeth. The flossing technique is even different than teeth!

3. Night Guard & Bite - Studies show that the majority people clench or brux their teeth at some point in their lives and contrary to popular belief..... it is NOT stress related. As such dental implants are not forgiving and great skill and knowledge needs to be implemented in designing the crown on the dental implant.

4. Regular Follow up - Dental implants need regular check ups and follow up more so than teeth. Because once a problem starts, it progress rapidly and thus must be caught early and checked regularly

5. Costly to fix - A recent European showed that dental implants cost 8 times more over the lifetime of a person to place and maintain and fix if problems arise. Isn't it better to maintain and keep your teeth today than even 5 years ago! This is possible with modern laser treatment!

6. Implant Brand - When problems arise, it is 3-7 years after the implant is placed and so make sure you know which brand is placed in your mouth, if you move cities. You really need to do your homework as to which company has manufactured your dental implant and get the part numbers. You would not spend the money for a Tesla and be happy with a Pontiac would you? All dental implants are not priced the same and only a few have the research of high success behind them - when you get a success rate quote of 95%+ make sure it is for that particular brand. There are over 500+ dental implant manufacturers in the world and most are copy cat brands of the top researched implants - most of which cannot get FDA or health Canada approval!

With so many dentists and treatment options today it is extremely important to question your dentist on many different levels: from experience, the follow up protocol provided and what materials are used or can they fix the problem, if an infection sets in? Good Questions to ask!



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