

What are the alternatives?

Historically missing teeth have been restored using removable dentures made of acrylic or metal. Smaller gaps were restored using bridges supported by the adjacent teeth.

Patients often complain of loose dentures, and implants can be utilised to help secure them.

In complex cases, patients without teeth may use implants to support fixed bridges, replacing dentures altogether.

Traditional bridges require the cutting down of the supporting teeth, which may compromise them in the long term. Research has shown that up to forty percent of teeth supporting crowns or bridges later require root treatment following death of the pulp.

Using implants instead of natural teeth to support crowns and bridges does not affect the remaining teeth in any way.

What is bone grafting?

In cases where there is insufficient bone to place implants, it may be possible to take small portions of bone from elsewhere and place it at the site. As the bone is yours it is readily accepted, creating a suitable bed for the implant. This is an autogenous bone graft. Grafting increase the length of treatment, and may involve you having to undergo a general anaesthetic whilst your graft is harvested.

If an autogenous graft is not required, various bone substitutes have been developed. Generally these are used to encourage smaller bony defects to infill prior to or at implant placement. Bone substitutes are derived from natural products (xenografts) or are synthetic (allografts). Bone substitutes are replaced in the body by your own bone over a period of time.

Is the treatment long and complicated?

A major key in the success of implant therapy is the availability of sufficient healthy bone. In such cases treatment is relatively short, taking from a few weeks to six months.

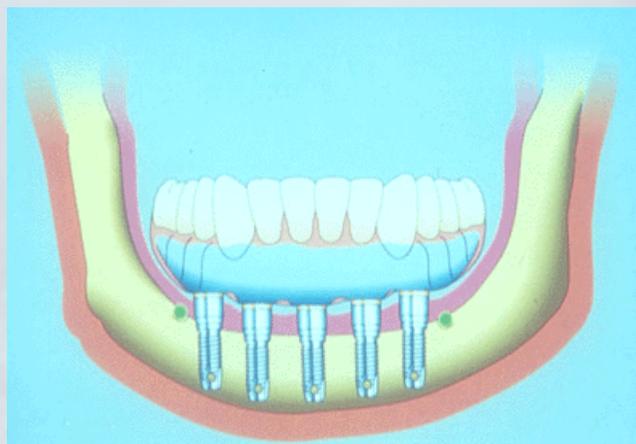
Where bone is poorer, we must utilise more complex bone grafting procedures, and treatment may take up to eighteen months

Most of the treatment is of a minor surgical nature, and is carried out under local anaesthetic. The precise nature of implant placement minimises discomfort.

Are Implants easy to maintain?

Dental implants are the closest we have come to yet to replacing lost teeth. As such we must look after them as we would a natural tooth, with thorough cleaning daily. Bacterial plaque can stick to implants and cause similar infections to the surrounding gums, as happens with natural teeth.

Implants supporting a fixed bridge



How reliable are implants?

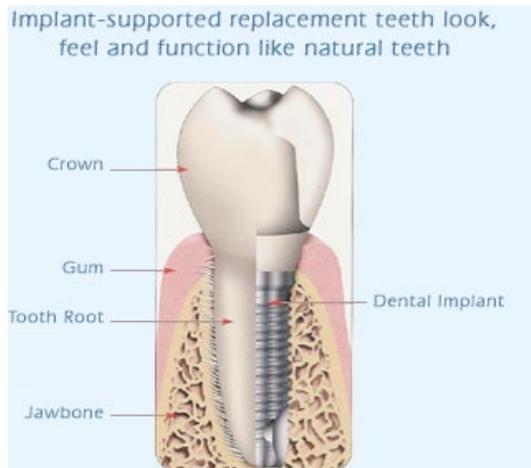
Implants have proven to be very long lasting in the clinical situation.

Research has shown that they have remained in function for over thirty years.

Fortunately living bone accepts titanium without becoming inflamed, allowing the implant to bind or `osseointegrate` to the bone.

What is a Dental Implant?

A dental implant is a small titanium screw that is placed into the jaws to support crowns, bridges or dentures.



Car Parking

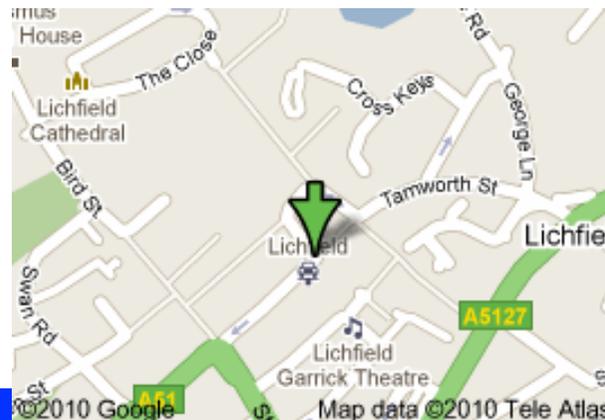
We suggest Bird Street, The Friary or Multi-storey car park as the most convenient for our practice. There are disabled parking bays situated on Bore Street.

Opening Hours

Monday—Friday	8:30—5:30
Saturday/Sunday	Closed

We are closed weekends and bank holidays, if you require urgent treatment outside normal practice hours contact NHS direct on 0845 46 47

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Bore Street

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An Introduction to Dental Implants

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When can implants be used?

Implants may be used when teeth have been lost. A single implant replaces a missing tooth. Larger gaps may be restored using fewer implants to support more replacement teeth.