



## **PRE-OPERATIVE INFORMATION: IMPLANT THERAPY**

### **What is an implant?**

An implant mimics the root of a tooth and supports a replacement tooth. They are made of titanium, a metal that is not rejected by the body. Your bone will bond to the implant (termed osseointegration) and after healing your restorative dentist will place the implant-supported tooth.

### **Who is a candidate for implant placement?**

This is a healthy person without gum disease and with enough bone for implant placement (assessed by special radiographs).

### **How do we do the surgery?**

The prescribed antibiotics should be started one day before the surgery and the course must be completed. The surgery is done painlessly with local anesthetic and I.V. sedation is available for complete patient comfort. A site is prepared in the bone where the implant is to be placed. The surgical site is closed with sutures. Depending on the type of implant, a second minor surgery may be required.

### **What happens after surgery?**

A soft diet is recommended and usually there is only minor discomfort associated with this procedure. In any case, you will be prescribed appropriate pain medication. If you have a denture, you will be given special instructions. You will be seen for a minimum of 2 post-operative appointments.

- The 1st appointment will be 10 days after surgery to check healing and remove sutures.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> appointment will be 2-3 months after surgery to verify clinically and radiographically that the implant has integrated with the bone.

Once the tooth has been placed by your dentist you will then be seen for your recall appointments every three months.

There is more information about this procedure on our website at [www.drcaudry.ca](http://www.drcaudry.ca)



## **POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS: IMPLANT SURGERY**

**Medication:** The prescribed antibiotic should be started one day before the surgery and the course must be completed.

**Discomfort:** There should be minimal discomfort following implant placement. Ibuprophen (600mg) every 4-6 hours and extra strength Tylenol are usually sufficient.

**Swelling:** Ice packs should be used immediately after the surgery to avoid swelling. A cold pack (ice or frozen vegetables) can be used on the side of the face for 10 minutes on and 10 minutes off for the first twelve hours following surgery.

**Bleeding:** It is not unusual to have some slight bleeding. If the site continues to bleed, bite on a piece of gauze (or moistened teabag) for twenty minutes. Bleeding can be avoided by keeping your head elevated during the first evening, discontinuing your usual exercise regime for 1-2 days, restricting yourself to a soft diet and by avoiding smoking, which also delays healing and irritates tissues.

**Oral Hygiene:** After surgery, it is important to keep your teeth and mouth as clean as possible. The prescribed antibacterial rinse is to be used twice a day for 4 days after surgery and then applied only locally with a Q-tip. Additionally, warm salt-water rinses (1/2 tsp in warm water) can be used several times a day. During the first week, the non-treated areas should be brushed normally.

**Post-operative appointments:** If you are wearing partial or full dentures, your dentist usually needs to make adjustments.

You will be seen for two post-operative appointments. The first will be 1 week after the surgery to check healing and remove the sutures. The second appointment will be 2-3 months after the surgery to verify clinically and radiographically that the implant has integrated with the bone. At this time, your dentist will be notified that you can proceed with the restorative phase of treatment. If necessary, an implant maintenance program with our office will be reviewed.

Your dentist should see you every three months for maintenance.

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