



MAINTENANCE AND POST-TREATMENT INFORMATION

Some of the benefits of dental implant treatment are the lack of pain, sensitivity, or decay. However, these same issues can also cause a person to fail to return to the dental office for regular maintenance and checkups. Major problems can develop during your absence.

Natural teeth have ligaments which act as shock absorbers for the teeth. You can get away with a “bad bite” on natural teeth to some degree. However, implants lack these ligaments and the bone will take the brunt of the force if occlusal problems (the “bad bite” issue) develop. Bone will “melt” from around the implant(s) if it is over-stressed, and eventually the implant can fall out of your mouth. This can occur without any pain at all.

Every implant patient will have a different “Recare Protocol,” but in general, you need to present to the dental office 3 to 4 times per year within the first two years. You should expect to have the implant(s) and teeth or appliance physically checked, the occlusion (bite) checked, and radiographic exams (x-rays) taken. These services are NOT included in the quoted fees for the treatment: rather, this is part of your maintenance protocol.

If you are problem-free after the first two years, annual exams (or semi-annual if you have any natural teeth in your mouth) with annual films should be expected.

If you have crowns on top of your implants, you can expect the crowns to last between 7 & 14 years: the same as crowns on top of natural teeth. The porcelain may chip or discolor, and require replacement. In most cases, the abutments and implants should last well beyond that, but no guarantees can be made.

If you have removable or non-removable dentures (ie-Hybrid®[®], Teeth-In-A-Day®[®]), the dentures will require replacement between 7 & 14 years due to discoloration, wear, and broken denture teeth or denture acrylic. Again, the frameworks and implants should last well beyond that, but no guarantees can be made.

With respect to the removable or non-removable dentures (ie-Hybrid®[®], Teeth-In-A-Day®[®]) components such as O-rings, Hader clips, or Locators will wear and require frequent replacement. These components are designed to wear. Typically they will require replacement once every one to three years.

Occasionally an unexpected component may fracture, such as retaining screws. Sometimes these are retrievable without incident, but occasionally it is impossible to remove them without damage to the implant. These situations need to be dealt with on a case-by-case scenario.

Just because you have implants does not mean that the fixtures or teeth do not have to be cleaned. You can still develop infections of the bone and gums. Brushing, flossing, rinses with mouthwashes (medicated or OTC), waterpiks, and denture cleansers may all be part of your customized home-care regimen.



Diplomate of the American Board of
Oral Implantology / Implant Dentistry

NJ Top Dentists

A Division of NJ Top Docs
New Jersey's Total Healthcare Resource

