

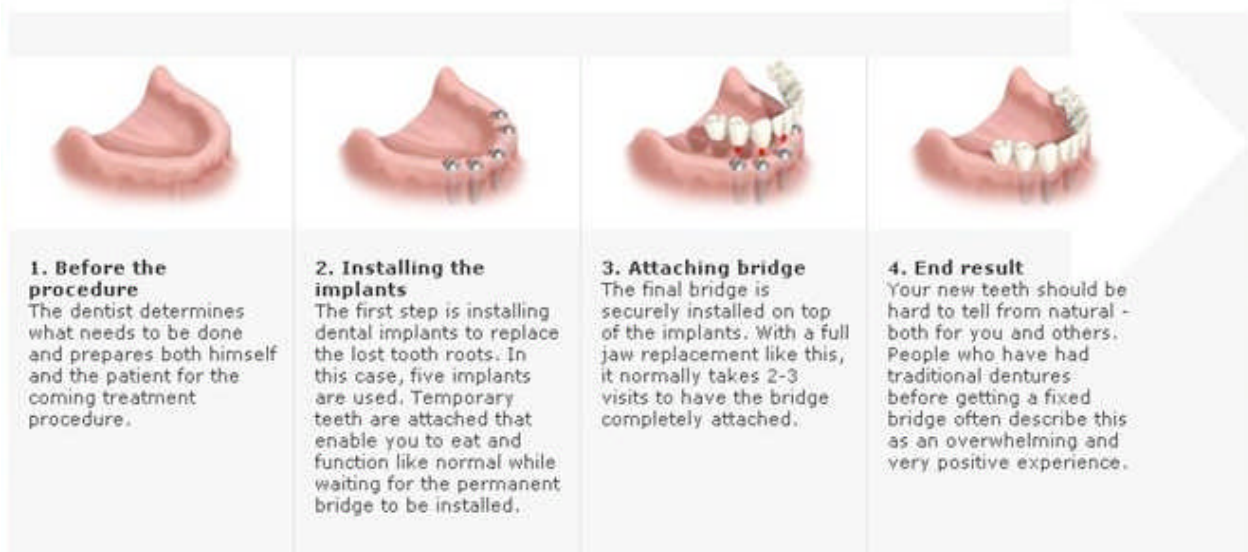
## How Do Implants work?

Dental Implants work because of our body's natural healing processes. During normal healing, whenever a tooth is taken out it leaves quite a large hole in the gum which fills up with a blood clot and within two months the blood clot matures and new gum grows to cover up the defect in the jaw. The blood clot slowly converts to bone over the next four to six months and the hole is filled completely.

The healing of implants depends on this natural process.

Implants are placed in the bone by a small operation whereupon the gum is lifted and a small hole made in the bone using special drills made from titanium. The titanium implant is placed and the gum is gently put back with stitches for a week.

Over the next six months whilst the implant is healing, the patient can carry on as if nothing has happened. Denture wearers can continue to wear their dentures throughout this time and in cases where only a few teeth have been removed and other teeth are present, it is possible to make a fixed temporary bridge for the patient to smile and chew normally. In either case there is no interruption to the patients lifestyle. The second stage of the treatment, after four to six months involves raising the gum and attaching a post to the implant. It is at this stage that the implant emerges from the gum. A temporary crown is made to fit onto the post and the patient will be able to have fixed teeth on their new implants. It takes about a further one month before the gum around the new implant has matured and it is at this stage that the final fixed teeth can be constructed.



## **Why Should we replace missing Teeth**

Our bodies are very efficient entities and any part of the body that is not required will tend to wither away. If we take a tooth away the gum will shrink, underneath the bone that used to support the tooth will find itself with no reason to stay and will also shrink away.

There are some factors that speed up the bone loss process. One of these is the use of dentures when you clench; dentures squeeze the blood out of the gum. This reduces the blood supplying the bone and causes accelerated shrinkage. Infection also causes faster loss of bone and this is why diseased teeth should be removed earlier rather than keeping them until the last moment so that bone is not lost for dental implant placement.



For a more thorough understanding of the procedure please contact The Dental Implant Centre at LXiR and ask to speak to one of our implantologists who will be most happy to answer any further questions that you may have.

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