



What to expect after dental implant surgery

Recovery from implant surgery, like any other surgical procedure, can be different depending on the procedure and the individual. While most post-op symptoms are minor, please read the following information to familiarise yourself with what to expect and how to manage symptoms if they occur.



1300 715 578



www.affordabledental.com.au

Managing Post-Op Symptoms

For the majority of patients, the following symptoms are either unlikely to occur or occur with minimum impact.

Swelling: Your face may swell and be sore. You may have difficulty opening your mouth. Swelling generally subsides over 2-3 days and can be relieved using an ice pack at 30 minute windows for 2 days post-surgery.

Pain: The pain you experience will vary depending upon a number of factors including the specific procedure, the difficulty of the operation and individual pain threshold. Pain can be controlled with medication such as Nurofen, Panadol or Panadeine every 3-4 hours. Nurofen is also helpful in reducing swelling. If greater pain relief is required, please contact the dental centre.

Bleeding: Minor bleeding can occur for 24 hours after surgery. This can be controlled by biting on a rolled up gauze pack placed over the surgical site. If bleeding continues, contact the dental centre.

On rare occasions, bruising inside the mouth and/or on the face and neck can occur, subsiding over the following week.

Infection: Bone, gum or facial infection may occur after surgery. Mouth rinsing with Chlorhexidine will help prevent this. If you suspect infection has occurred, please contact your dentist immediately.

Allergy: Reactions to drugs, medication or anaesthetics can occur. If your condition deteriorates after 3-5 days, contact your dentist immediately.

Dryness and cracking: Dry lips and corners of the mouth may occur and can be relieved by applying a lanolin or paw-paw type ointment to these areas after surgery. Cleaning of the remaining teeth is essential. If necessary, use a child's toothbrush.

Numbness and altered taste (lower jaw implants): There is a possibility of altered sensation (numbness, burning, itching and altered taste) of the lips, teeth, chin, cheek or tongue after the operation. The exact duration may not be determinable and may (in rare cases) be irreversible.

Sinus (upper jaw implants): Penetration of the implant into the sinus can occur in the upper jaw. Usually this does not cause a problem and healing will occur without issue.

Delayed healing: Delayed and painful healing of the surgical site can occur. If your condition deteriorates over 3-5 days, contact your dentist immediately.

Final gum position: Every effort is made to ensure that the gum position around the final restoration is ideal. The final gum position can take up to 6 months to settle, and in some cases the position is less than ideal and may (in high smile line patients) be noticeable.

Abutment showing: Every effort is made to ensure that the implant abutment post is under the gum line. Occasionally, due to less than ideal healing, the abutment appears above the gum line and (if a metal abutment is used) may be obvious. You may wish to opt for a ceramic abutment that is closer to tooth colour, but this is a more expensive option.