



A Patient's Guide to
DENTAL IMPLANTS

Introducing Dr Stephen Franks

BDS (London) Msc (Dental Implantology)

Stephen Franks is our in house implantologist.

Stephen qualified in 1990 at University College Hospital, London. After having spent many years in general practice, including time teaching university undergraduates at Guy's King's and St Thomas Dental School, he decided to focus on dental implantology, completing a year long course with the International Team for Implantology, a Master's Degree in Implantology (with merit) and master classes in bone grafting at The University of Berne, Switzerland..

To date Stephen has placed over 1,500 dental implants and has carried out over 250 grafting procedures. He is a member of the International Team for Implantology and the Association of Dental Implantology as well as being an approved Straumann mentor and past clinical teacher on the MSc Implantology course at the University of Central Lancashire.

Stephen has a caring and professional manner which is sure to put you at ease.



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What is a Dental Implant?

The design of a dental implant is based on the design of a natural tooth which is commonly described as having two main parts:

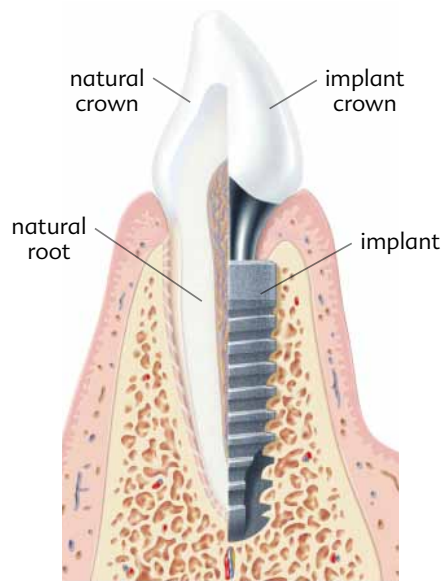
- The crown that sits above the gums
- The root that sits securely below the gum

The Implant crown

The implant crown is carefully crafted to look and feel like a healthy, natural tooth that feels like part of you.

The implant

The implant replaces the function of a natural root and if looked after properly should last a lifetime. It stimulates the bone molecules to attach themselves to the titanium thread of the implant, providing a completely stable foundation for the new crown - a process known as osseointegration. It usually takes 8-12 weeks for the bone to securely bond to the entire implant surface.



Replacing a Single Missing Tooth with an Implant Tooth

PROBLEM:

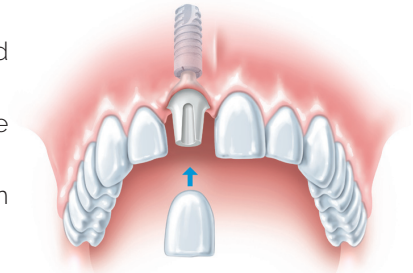
Missing or Failing Tooth

- Due to infection, failed root filling, trauma or root fracture
- Crown keeps falling out or not enough tooth left to attach a new crown
- Tooth failed to develop

SOLUTION:

Implant with Single Tooth

- Ideal long term solution that looks, feels and functions just like natural teeth
- Protects adjacent teeth and underlying bone helping maintain lip and cheek support
- Very high success rate (over 95%) when compared to alternative treatments



ALTERNATIVES:

Leave a Gap or Wear a Denture

- Unsightly and embarrassing
- May impair eating and speech
- Bone and gum in the gap will shrink
- The position of adjacent and opposing teeth will distort over time

Bridge from Other Teeth

- Healthy teeth need to be drilled to attach the bridge, shortening their lifespan making future solutions more complex and costly
- Bone supporting the gum beneath a bridge will shrink due to lack of use leaving a gap
- Extra stress on supporting teeth during chewing

Replacing Several Adjoining Teeth with Implant Teeth

PROBLEM:

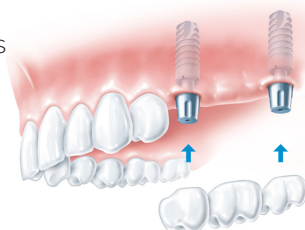
More than One Tooth Missing or Failing

- Dislike wearing a denture or have a failing bridge
- Unable to chew properly and eat what you want with confidence
- Not enough teeth to support a bridge
- Do not want teeth damaged by a bridge

SOLUTION:

Implants Supporting Teeth

- Ideal long term solution that looks, feels and functions just like natural teeth
- Fixed in place, no need to remove them to clean
- No need to damage adjacent healthy teeth
- Very high success rate (95%)



ALTERNATIVES:

Bridge Supported on Teeth

- Supporting teeth need to be drilled to attach the bridge thereby shortening their lifespan
- Bone supporting the gum beneath a bridge will shrink due to lack of use leaving a gap

Partial Denture

- Can be loose and uncomfortable, trapping food beneath whilst eating
- Replacement required every few years as dentures become looser

Leave a Gap

- Unsightly and embarrassing
- May impair eating and speech
- Positions of surrounding teeth will distort over time

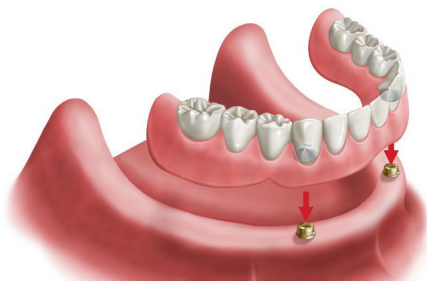
Implant Overdentures

Using dental implants to secure and stabilise full dentures has been called the 'gold standard' of care for lower denture wearers.

Many patients really struggle with their false teeth and it is no exaggeration to say that many denture wearers are miserable as a result. They find that their dentures move about when they eat and that they can drop embarrassingly when they are talking. Many denture wearers need to glue their dentures in each day and some even avoid eating socially as they are too embarrassed. For such people, dental implants have been a real game changer.



This treatment involves the fitting of between two and four dental implants. These are then attached to the dentures with special snap on connections. The dentures still need to be removed each day for cleaning however they are stable and secure without the need for messy denture adhesives.



Patients find they can enjoy the food they like and socialise with more confidence. Age is no barrier to this treatment option. Dr Franks has personally provided overdentures for patients in their 80's and 90's.

Teeth in a Day

Until the development of the Teeth in a Day treatment concept a full arch implant reconstruction typically involved placing 6-8 dental implants in each jaw, often with complex grafting, and delays between extraction of the teeth, placement of the implants, and fit of the bridge of six months or more.



The Teeth in a Day treatment protocol allows us to remove your remaining teeth, place the implants and to fit a provisional bridge all on the **same day**. This reduces treatment times, normally avoids the need for complex sinus bone grafting, and reduces the cost of treatment.

Whilst the treatment protocol is too new for long term studies, published 5-10 year results show excellent success rates of 94-98% survival, so whilst most all on four implant treatments last 10 years they may do far better.

The benefits of Teeth in a Day

- Greatly reduced treatment times. Extractions, implant placement and fit of a provisional bridge being achieved in one day
- A fixed solution, no need to remove the bridges for cleaning
- Stable and secure bridges, no need to worry about your teeth moving about or dropping
- A reduced number of implants and the avoidance of complex bone grafting, giving shorter treatment times and reduced costs compared to traditional implant solutions

For more information on your options for
dental implants please contact:

Katey Read

Patient Care Coordinator for Dr Stephen Franks

 **07852 645 398**

 **katey@stephenfranks.dental**

 **www.stephenfranks.dental**

