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You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

If you are unhappy with the advice you have been given by your GP, consultant, or another healthcare professional, you may ask for a second (or further) opinion.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk if you would like a reference list.

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Role: Sister
Date written: June 2010
Last revised: January 2015
Next review due: February 2019
Version: 1.1
Code: PI0357

First stage - insertion of intraoral implant (1 of 2)

This leaflet is designed to improve your understanding of your planned treatment and contains answers to many common questions. If you have any other questions or would like a further explanation please ask.

What is an intraoral implant?

An implant is a false metal root screwed into the jawbone. Implants form anchors for crown, bridge or denture attachments.

What does implant surgery involve?

Implants are generally carried out in 3 stages. They are usually put in under local anaesthesia (that is you will be given an injection to make the area numb). Once this has worked, the gum is cut and pushed back to expose the underlying bone. A hole is then drilled into the bone and the implant screwed into this hole. The gum is then put back in the right place with stitches. These stitches are usually dissolvable but may take several weeks to disappear. Sometimes an implant is placed immediately after an extraction.

How long will the operation take?

It usually takes around an hour to place a single implant. Obviously if you are having more than one implant it will take longer.

What can I expect after the operation?

Your gum is unlikely to be very sore after implant surgery but regular painkillers (such as Ibuprofen) will be arranged for you. There is relatively little in the way of swelling. Often you will be prescribed antibiotics.

Do I need time off work?

We advise you to take the rest of the day off work. You may also need to stay at home for a day or so depending on the type of job you do. If many implants have been placed and this has required intravenous sedation (a sedation injection into a vein), or a general anaesthetic, then it is important to remember that you cannot drive or operate machinery for 24 hours after intravenous sedation and 48 hours after general anaesthesia.

Is there anything that I need to do when I get home?

It is important to keep the surgical site as clean as possible for the first few weeks after the implants are inserted. It may be difficult to clean around the area because it is sore and in this case it is best to keep the area free from food debris by gently rinsing with a mouthwash or warm

Oral & Maxillo Facial Surgery

 **01722 336262 ext 3255**

salt water (dissolve a level teaspoon of kitchen salt in a cup of warm water) starting the day after surgery. You will have been prescribed a course of antibiotics to reduce the chances of infection. Please remember to take these. You will have a follow up appointment 2 - 4 weeks after surgery when an X-ray may be taken.

What are the possible problems?

- although there may be a little bleeding at the time of surgery this usually stops very quickly and is unlikely to be a problem. If the area bleeds again when you get home this can usually be stopped by applying pressure with a rolled up handkerchief or swab for at least 10 minutes.
- infection is uncommon, particularly if antibiotics are taken.
- if you are having an implant placed into your lower jaw be aware that some nerves may lie close to the site of surgery. One of these runs through the centre of the jawbone and supplies feeling to your lower lip, chin and lower teeth. The other runs on the inside of the lower jaw and supplies feeling to your tongue and helps with taste. Sometimes these nerves may be bruised when an implant is placed. This can cause tingling or numbness in your lip, chin or tongue, and more rarely altered taste. The chances of these nerves being bruised depends on exactly where your implant is going to be placed and how much bone there is around the nerves. Your surgeon will tell you what the risk is for you.
- smoking can cause loss of the implant and failure to heal adequately. Advice on stopping smoking can be found at www.smokefree.nhs.uk or call 0800 022 4 332.
- you will need to return for 2nd stage surgery about 4 months after the first procedure. More information about this will be given to you.

Is there anything I should look out for?

You should contact Oral Surgery outpatients on 01722 336262 ext 3255 if you have excessive bleeding or pain.