

# Are implants a solution for you?

**You'll have to excuse me because I'm going to talk technical in this blog in an effort to explain to you, that if you've lost your tether with your ill-fitting, wobbly, useless denture and you've been told 'tough, there's nothing for it' that there may be a solution out there for you.**

Let's start with some basic anatomy then class! Eyes to the front, time to concentrate.

When teeth are extracted the bone that once held that tooth in place no longer has a purpose there anymore and it resorbs/shrinks back. After a long time there is very little bone left there at all. This is a common factor in people who have worn dentures for many years. The bone resorbs to the point where even the best and most beautifully made dentures no longer fit as there is no bony ridge left for them to 'adhere' to so to speak.

Now in many cases standard dental implants, ranging from approximately 8-15mm, can solve this problem, creating an attachment site for what's called an 'implant retained denture' or even an 'implant retained bridge'. Most people considering this kind of treatment are sent for a 3D scan of their jaws to access how much bone is present and to determine their suitability for implants. Sometimes this scan can come back showing that there is not enough bone for standard implants to be placed into. At this point some people think that all is lost, but no!

Through the wonders of modern medicine this can be solved with bone grafting techniques that increase the amount of bone in the jaw, thus allowing for standard implants to be placed. But this does require more surgery, more time in the chair and months of healing before any implants can be placed.

## **How can this be avoided?**

Well we can use a different kind of implant instead, called a zygomatic implant or zygoma which anchors the implant retained bridge or denture to the zygomatic arch, more commonly known as the cheekbone. These implants range from approximately 30mm to 52mm in length and would make the bone grafting on the jaw redundant as they attach to a different bone.

## **Anyone asleep yet? Or excited by the science? It can all get a bit confusing but in short;**

- Dentures annoying you?
- Not enough bone for standard implants?
- Use very long implants called zygomatic implants to attach to the cheek bone instead.

I know, why didn't I say it like that in the first place? Well hopefully after all my long winded science talk you have a better understanding of the options available out there in terms of implants.

Class dismissed! You can go and eat your chocolates in the playground now.

