

PRESS RELEASE | DENSPLY FRIADENT

Dental implants – when correctly selected they are as good as the original teeth

Information for patients

Mannheim, November 4, 2008 – **The threat of tooth loss is combined with the fear of loss of quality of life. Not without reason, because in many cases conventional solutions such as bridges, partial and full dentures cause difficulty in speaking and eating. The modern alternative in dentistry is: implants. The artificial roots are screwed into the jaw and feel just like the genuine teeth. Implant treatment is now backed up by almost half a century of intensive research and development. This makes implantology a safe form of therapy.**

The small high-tech screws are made of pure surgical titanium. This very stable material does not contain any allergenic constituents. The titanium also becomes firmly integrated into the bone tissue. This is an important prerequisite for permanent retention. An implant consists of three components: screw, connecting piece and the visible crown. The screw forms the replacement root. The connecting piece, which projects into the oral cavity like a tooth stump, is referred to as an abutment and is permanently anchored in the titanium screw.

The replacement tooth is fixed to the abutment, for example a crown. One implant per missing tooth can be inserted or multiple teeth can be anchored on one implant. Multiple artificial roots serve as anchors for more complex bridges or dentures.

What does the dentist do?

First, the dentist cuts the gum at the location at which the implant is to be inserted. The incision is generally made so the dentist can check the available bone volume and the bone quality once again before implant placement and has a good view of the anatomical structures of the jaw region. In the next step a small hole of the diameter of the implant is drilled into the jawbone, and then the implant is screwed into the hole. This procedure is very atraumatic for the patient and generally only requires local anesthetic. Once the replacement root is in the jaw, the dentist sutures the overlying gum in place over it. The screw is left for three to six months to become firmly integrated into the bone. During this period the patient receives a temporary denture, so patients are never outside the dental practice with a gap.

When the implant site is thoroughly healed, the top is uncovered by a small incision. The connecting piece is placed in the implant and the new tooth is fixed to it.

Are there any faster options?

The immediate loading method can allow a patient to have new teeth much faster under some conditions. In this case, the denture or the temporary denture is fixed to the implants immediately after they have been placed, with the result that in many cases the patient can eat with the new teeth on the same day.

Is it always that simple?

The titanium screws require solid bone to retain them securely. If the bone is too soft or too thin, the dentist can restore the missing bone. This is generally required at the back of the upper jawbone, because it is not high enough. The graft is made as atraumatically as possible with bone chips from the patient's own body or a bone replacement material. This is generally done at the same time at which the implant is inserted. A separate outpatient procedure may be required in

some cases. In these cases the dentist usually decides to leave the implants with the newly restored bone to heal for three to six months as described above before they can be fully loaded.

What is the effect of the titanium screws over the long term?

The teeth send small impulses to the jaw and continually stimulate it. If this pressure is missing after tooth loss, the bone reacts like a muscle that is no longer exercised: it regresses. When the artificial tooth roots are in place, the bone is again loaded as if the natural teeth were there, it remains stable for life and the occlusion is permanently retained.

Are the artificial roots suitable for anyone?

In principle, yes. Once the jaw is fully grown, an implant can be placed. There is no upper age limit. Even diabetics can receive implants if their diabetes is fully controlled. It is important to inform the dentist of any blood clotting disorders, impaired immune system, cardiovascular disorders or diseases of the metabolism.

What needs to be considered?

Go to experienced implantologists only who understand what they are doing and have extensive experience in placing implants. Avoid cheap implants and invest in quality products only, such as those from German manufacturers that have been clinically tested for a long time. An implant is not just an implant. For example, the surface technology of implants is very important: implants with a microscopic, finely roughened surface become integrated into the bone better than implants with smooth surfaces. And only a high-tech thread design ensures the required stability in the jaw from the start and an atraumatic insertion. Special conical abutment-implant connections prevent micromovements and therefore the ingress of bacteria, which means that the bone also remains stable and healthy over the long term, the gum does not recede, crown margins are not visible and a

permanent esthetic result is achieved. The German Association of Oral Implantology also recommends selecting implant systems from a major manufacturer to ensure that replacements will continue to be available for well into the future.

For more information see in the internet: www.implantsforlife.com/

DENTSPLY Friadent company portrait

DENTSPLY Friadent is the implant division of the American company DENTSPLY International, the world leader in the dental industry with over 9,000 employees in total. At its company headquarters in Mannheim, Germany, the implant specialist employs a staff of around 450 and is one of the most innovative and leading companies in its industry. The company is represented around the world with its own subsidiaries, DENTSPLY sister companies and dealers.

The functionally and esthetically sophisticated implant-based dental solutions allow people a self-confident and natural smile. With its brand implant systems ANKYLOS[®], XiVE[®] and FRIALIT[®], as well as its FRIOS[®] line of surgical instruments and bone replacement materials, DENTSPLY Friadent offers a comprehensive portfolio of dental prosthetic solutions with excellent clinical results. Alongside the strong product brands, the successful product range is rounded off with innovative technologies, such as computer-aided implantation with ExpertEase[™], the surface technology FRIADENT[®] plus or zirconia technology CERCON[®] in association with the world market leader DENTSPLY, and a practice marketing and practice management program tailored to practices offering implantology under the *stepps*[®] service brand.

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DENTSPLY Friadent, Friadent GmbH, Steinzeugstr. 50, 68229 Mannheim, Germany,
www.dentsply-friadent.com

Editor / contact:

Edelman GmbH, Nadine Dusberger, Niddastr. 91, 60329 Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Tel. +49 69 756199-43, Fax +49 69 756199-13, nadine.dusberger@edelman.com