

# Dental Implants and Bone Grafting - Why Complex Cases Need a Specialist Centre

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## Description:

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## Details:

## Not All Implant Cases Are the Same

Dental implants have transformed how missing teeth are replaced. For straightforward cases - a single missing tooth with adequate bone and healthy gums - implant placement is a well-established procedure that many experienced dentists can perform successfully. Core Dental practices across suburban Melbourne handle these routine implant cases with skill and convenience.

But not every implant case is straightforward. When bone has been lost, when multiple teeth need replacing, when gum disease is present, or when previous implants have failed, the complexity increases significantly. These cases require specialist expertise and a coordinated team approach that goes beyond what any single-clinician practice can offer.

## What Makes an Implant Case Complex?

Several factors can move a dental implant case from routine to complex:

- **Bone grafting** - when the jawbone has resorbed after tooth loss and there is insufficient bone to support an implant, bone must be rebuilt before or during implant placement
- **Sinus lifts** - in the upper jaw, the sinus cavity can sit too close to where the implant needs to go, requiring a procedure to create additional bone height
- **Zygomatic implants** - for patients with severe upper jaw bone loss, implants anchored into the cheekbone (zygoma) may be the only viable option
- **Full arch replacement (All-on-4)** - replacing an entire arch of teeth with four to six strategically placed implants requires precise surgical planning and prosthetic design
- **Multiple implants with periodontal disease** - active gum disease must be treated and controlled before implants can succeed, requiring periodontal specialist involvement
- **Failed previous implants** - removing a failed implant, managing infection, rebuilding bone, and replacing the implant is significantly more complex than a first-time placement

Each of these scenarios involves decisions that affect long-term outcomes. The wrong approach can lead to implant failure, bone loss, or the need for further surgery.

## Why Complex Cases Need Multiple Specialists

A complex implant case often requires the coordinated involvement of several specialists:

- A **specialist oral surgeon** for the surgical placement, bone grafting, and sinus lift procedures
- A **specialist prosthodontist** for designing the final teeth and ensuring the implant positions support

optimal function and aesthetics - A **\*\*specialist periodontist\*\*** for managing gum disease, ensuring healthy soft tissue around the implants, and long-term maintenance planning

When these specialists work in separate practices, coordination is difficult. Treatment plans can become fragmented. At the Collins Street Specialist Centre (CSSC) on Level 8 of the Manchester Unity Building in Melbourne's CBD, these specialists work under one roof as part of the Smile Solutions Group.

With over 80 clinicians, 25 or more registered specialists, 300,000 or more patients treated, and 33 years of experience, the Smile Solutions Group has the infrastructure for complex implant cases that require this level of coordinated specialist care.

### ## The Core Dental Referral Pathway

Core Dental dentists are trained to assess implant suitability and identify when a case is beyond routine complexity. During your consultation, your dentist evaluates your bone levels, gum health, medical history, and the number and location of missing teeth.

For simple cases, Core Dental manages the entire process locally. For complex cases, the referral to CSSC happens seamlessly within the Smile Solutions Group. The specialist team plans and places the implants, and your Core Dental practice can then manage the ongoing maintenance - check-ups, cleaning, and monitoring - close to home.

This collaborative model means you get specialist-level surgical care where it matters most, combined with convenient local follow-up for the years ahead.

### ## Getting Started

If you are missing teeth, have been told you lack bone for implants, or have experienced implant failure elsewhere, book an assessment at your nearest Core Dental practice. Your dentist can evaluate your situation and, if needed, connect you with the specialist implant team at CSSC.

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