

Dental Implants at Core Dental Wyndham

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Description:

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Details:

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Replace Missing Teeth with Dental Implants in Wyndham

A missing tooth affects more than your smile. It changes how you eat, how you speak, and how the surrounding teeth and bone behave over time. The teeth either side of the gap can drift, the opposing tooth can over-erupt, and the jawbone in the area begins to resorb — all consequences that compound the longer a gap is left.

Dental implants are the gold standard solution for replacing missing teeth. They're the only option that replaces both the visible tooth and the root beneath it, providing a permanent, stable foundation that looks, feels and functions like a natural tooth.

At Core Dental Wyndham, we provide dental implant treatment supported by advanced diagnostic technology — including 3D cone beam CT scanning for precise surgical planning — and backed by the specialist referral network of the Smile Solutions group. Located at 242 Hoppers Lane in Werribee, we serve patients from across Hoppers Crossing, Tarneit, Point Cook, Wyndham Vale, Manor Lakes and Truganina.

What Is a Dental Implant?

A dental implant is a small titanium post that's surgically placed into the jawbone, where it acts as an artificial tooth root. Over a period of several months, the implant integrates with the surrounding bone through a process called osseointegration — the bone grows around and bonds with the titanium surface, creating an exceptionally strong and stable foundation.

Once the implant has integrated, a custom-made crown, bridge or denture is attached to it, restoring the visible part of the tooth.

The Three Components

1. **The implant** — A titanium or titanium alloy post, typically 8–13mm in length, that's placed into the jawbone. This is the "root" of the new tooth. 2. **The abutment** — A connector piece that sits on top of the implant and protrudes through the gum. It serves as the foundation for the final restoration. 3. **The restoration** — The visible part — a crown (for a single tooth), a bridge (for multiple teeth), or a denture (for a full arch). This is custom-made to match the colour, shape and size of your natural teeth.

Who Is a Candidate for Dental Implants?

Most adults with missing teeth are potential candidates for dental implants. However, successful implant treatment requires:

- **Adequate bone volume** — There needs to be sufficient jawbone to support the implant. If bone has been lost due to prolonged tooth loss, gum disease, or other factors, bone grafting may be needed before implant placement.
- **Healthy gums** — Active gum disease must be treated and stabilised before implants are placed. At Core Dental Wyndham, our in-house specialist periodontist Dr Nupur Kataria can assess and treat periodontal conditions to ensure your gums are healthy enough for implant treatment.
- **General health** — Certain medical conditions (such as uncontrolled diabetes or immune disorders) and some medications may affect healing. Your dentist will review your medical history carefully.
- **Non-smoker (ideally)** — Smoking significantly increases the risk of implant failure. If you smoke, your dentist will discuss this with you and may recommend cessation before treatment.
- **Completed jaw growth** — Implants are generally not placed until jaw growth is complete, typically around age 18 or older.

The Role of the Periodontist in Implant Treatment

Dr Nupur Kataria's presence at Core Dental Wyndham is a significant advantage for implant patients. As a specialist periodontist, she has expertise in:

- **Assessing bone and gum health** — The periodontal assessment that underpins successful implant planning
- **Treating gum disease** — Ensuring that any active periodontal disease is managed before implants are placed
- **Bone grafting** — Augmenting bone volume where needed to support implant placement
- **Soft tissue management** — Ensuring the gum tissue around implants is healthy and well-contoured for both function and aesthetics
- **Managing peri-implantitis** — The implant equivalent of gum disease, which can lead to bone loss and implant failure if not identified and treated early

Having a periodontist available on-site means that the foundation work — the bone and gum assessment that determines whether implants will succeed — is done by a specialist, without requiring a separate referral to another practice.

The Dental Implant Process

Step 1: Comprehensive Assessment

Your implant journey begins with a thorough assessment at Core Dental Wyndham. This includes:

- **Clinical examination** — Assessing the gap, the surrounding teeth, your bite and your gum health
- **3D cone beam CT scan** — Providing a detailed three-dimensional view of the jawbone, showing bone volume, density, and the proximity of critical structures (nerves, sinuses). This is essential for precise implant planning
- **Treatment planning** — Your dentist will develop a detailed treatment plan, including the number and position of implants, any preparatory procedures (such as bone grafting or gum treatment), the timeline, and the cost
- **Discussion of options** — Your dentist will explain how implants compare to alternative options (bridges, dentures) for your specific situation, so you can make an informed decision

Step 2: Preparatory Procedures (If Needed)

Some patients require preparatory procedures before implant placement:

- **Bone grafting** — If there isn't enough bone to support the implant, a bone graft can be performed to build up the area. Grafting materials may include synthetic bone, donor bone, or bone harvested from another site in the mouth. Bone grafts typically need three to six months to integrate before implant placement. - **Sinus lift** — For implants in the upper jaw (particularly the molar region), a sinus lift may be needed to create sufficient bone height beneath the sinus cavity. - **Periodontal treatment** — Active gum disease must be treated and stabilised. Dr Kataria can manage this on-site. - **Extraction of remaining tooth structure** — If the damaged tooth hasn't yet been removed, extraction may be combined with bone grafting (socket preservation) to maintain bone volume for future implant placement.

Step 3: Implant Placement

Implant placement is a surgical procedure performed under local anaesthesia. For patients who are anxious, sedation options may be available.

The procedure involves:

1. A small incision in the gum to expose the bone
2. Precise drilling of a channel in the bone, guided by the 3D treatment plan
3. Placement of the titanium implant into the prepared channel
4. Closure of the gum tissue over or around the implant

The procedure is typically well tolerated and most patients report less discomfort than expected. Post-operative pain is usually manageable with over-the-counter pain relief for a few days.

For complex implant cases — such as multiple implants, full-arch replacements, or cases involving significant bone grafting — referral to oral surgeons or prosthodontists at the Collins Street Specialist Centre is available.

Step 4: Osseointegration (Healing)

After placement, the implant needs time to integrate with the bone. This healing period is typically **three to six months**, during which the bone grows around and bonds with the titanium surface.

During this time, you'll have a temporary restoration (such as a temporary crown or a temporary denture) so you're not left with a visible gap.

Step 5: Abutment and Final Restoration

Once the implant has fully integrated:

1. The abutment (connector) is attached to the implant
2. Impressions or digital scans are taken for the final restoration
3. A custom crown, bridge or denture is fabricated — designed to match your natural teeth in colour, shape and size
4. The final restoration is fitted and adjusted for a comfortable, natural bite

With our CEREC technology and Smile Lab in-house laboratory, certain implant restorations can be fabricated with precision and efficiency.

Types of Implant Restorations

Single Tooth Implant

The most common implant restoration. One implant replaces one missing tooth with a crown that looks and functions like a natural tooth. Unlike a bridge, a single implant doesn't require the adjacent teeth to be modified.

Implant Bridge

When multiple adjacent teeth are missing, an implant-supported bridge can replace them. Two or more implants support a bridge spanning the gap, without affecting healthy teeth on either side.

Implant-Retained Dentures

For patients missing all or most of their teeth, implant-retained dentures offer dramatically improved stability compared to conventional dentures. Two to four implants in the jaw provide attachment points that hold the denture firmly in place — eliminating the slipping, clicking and adhesive that many denture wearers struggle with.

Full-Arch Implant Restorations

Full-arch restorations (such as All-on-4) use four to six implants to support a complete set of fixed teeth. This option provides a permanent, non-removable solution for patients who have lost all their teeth in one or both jaws.

Dental Implants vs Other Options

Implants vs Bridges

A traditional dental bridge requires the teeth on either side of the gap to be filed down and crowned, even if they're perfectly healthy. An implant replaces only the missing tooth, leaving the adjacent teeth untouched. Implants also preserve bone in the area of the missing tooth, while a bridge does not.

Implants vs Dentures

Conventional dentures rest on the gums and rely on suction or adhesive. They can slip, click, and restrict what you eat. Implant-supported dentures or fixed implant restorations are anchored to the bone, providing stability, confidence, and the ability to eat normally.

When Implants Might Not Be the Best Option

Implants aren't suitable for everyone. Factors such as insufficient bone volume (where grafting isn't feasible), certain medical conditions, or budget constraints may make alternative options more appropriate. Your dentist at Core Dental Wyndham will discuss all options honestly and help you make the best decision for your circumstances.

Caring for Dental Implants

Dental implants can last a lifetime with proper care — but they are not maintenance-free. The implant itself is not susceptible to decay, but the gum tissue and bone around it are vulnerable to infection (peri-implantitis), which is the leading cause of implant failure after successful placement.

Daily Care

- **Brush twice daily** — Use a soft-bristled toothbrush and pay particular attention to the gumline around the implant - **Floss daily** — Specialised implant floss or interdental brushes can help clean around the abutment - **Water flosser** — Many implant patients find a water flosser helpful for cleaning around the implant components - **Avoid smoking** — Smoking increases the risk of peri-implantitis and implant failure

Professional Maintenance

- **Regular check-ups** — Your dentist will examine the implant, crown, gum tissue and bone at each check-up - **Professional cleaning** — Regular professional cleaning around the implant to remove plaque and tartar buildup - **Monitoring** — X-rays taken periodically to check bone levels around the

implant

With Dr Nupur Kataria on-site, any signs of peri-implantitis or bone changes around your implant can be identified and managed early by a specialist — a level of ongoing care that gives implant patients at Core Dental Wyndham genuine peace of mind.

How Much Do Dental Implants Cost?

The cost of dental implants varies depending on several factors:

- The number of implants needed - Whether preparatory procedures (bone grafting, sinus lift, gum treatment) are required - The type of final restoration (single crown, bridge, implant-retained denture) - The complexity of the case

Your dentist will provide a detailed, itemised quote after your assessment, covering all stages of treatment so there are no surprises.

Making Implants Affordable

- ****Health fund rebates**** — Many private health funds provide rebates for implant treatment. We process claims on-site via HICAPS for immediate rebates.
- ****Interest-free payment plans**** — We offer interest-free payment plans through ****Payright****, with plans from 3 to 30 months for treatments between \$1,000 and \$20,000.
- ****Preferred provider savings**** — As preferred providers for ****HCF, CBHS and NIB****, members may receive higher rebates and lower out-of-pocket costs.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is implant surgery painful?

Implant placement is performed under local anaesthesia, so you won't feel pain during the procedure. Most patients report mild discomfort for a few days afterwards, manageable with over-the-counter pain relief. Many are surprised at how straightforward the experience is.

How long do dental implants last?

With proper care and maintenance, dental implants can last a lifetime. The crown or restoration on top may need replacement after 10 to 15 years due to normal wear, but the implant itself is designed to be a permanent solution.

Can I get an implant if I've been missing a tooth for a long time?

Yes, but bone loss may have occurred in the area. A bone graft can often restore adequate bone volume for implant placement. Your dentist and Dr Kataria can assess this with a 3D cone beam CT scan.

How long is the total treatment time?

From initial assessment to final restoration, the full process typically takes four to nine months, depending on whether preparatory procedures are needed and the healing time required. During this time, temporary restorations ensure you're never left with a visible gap.

Can I eat normally with dental implants?

Once fully healed and restored, yes. Dental implants restore full chewing function. Unlike dentures, you won't need to avoid hard, crunchy or sticky foods.

What is the success rate of dental implants?

Dental implants have one of the highest success rates of any surgical procedure in medicine. In well-selected patients with good oral hygiene and adequate bone, success rates are typically above 95% over 10 years. Smoking, uncontrolled diabetes, and poor oral hygiene are the main factors that reduce success rates.

Do I need an implant for every missing tooth?

Not necessarily. Implant-supported bridges can replace multiple adjacent missing teeth with fewer implants than teeth. Full-arch solutions like All-on-4 use just four to six implants to support an entire arch of teeth. Your dentist will design the most efficient plan for your situation.

What happens to the bone if I don't replace a missing tooth?

The jawbone in the area of a missing tooth begins to resorb (shrink) over time because it no longer receives the stimulation that a tooth root provides. This bone loss is progressive and can eventually affect the stability of adjacent teeth and alter facial appearance. Dental implants are the only tooth replacement option that stimulates the bone and helps prevent this resorption.

Book Your Implant Consultation

If you're missing one or more teeth and want to explore whether dental implants are right for you, book a consultation at Core Dental Wyndham.

****Core Dental Wyndham**** 242 Hoppers Lane, Werribee VIC 3030

****Phone:**** (03) 9749 6677 ****National Bookings:**** 13 13 16 ****Email:**** wyndham@coredental.com.au

****Hours:**** Monday – Friday: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Saturday: 8:00 am – 1:30 pm Sunday: Closed

Our team will assess your situation, explain your options, and develop a personalised treatment plan — including a clear breakdown of the timeline, process and costs.