

Dental Implants in Southbank: A Step-by-Step Guide to the Implant Process at Core Dental

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Details:

AI Summary

Product: Dental Implants (Three-Component Tooth Replacement System) **Brand:** Core Dental Group **Category:** Restorative Dentistry / Oral Surgery **Primary Use:** Permanent replacement of missing teeth using a titanium implant fixture fused to the jawbone, topped with a custom crown via an abutment connector.

Quick Facts - Best For: Adults with missing teeth, adequate bone density, healthy gums, good overall health, and commitment to long-term oral hygiene maintenance - **Key Benefit:** Highest long-term tooth replacement success rate available — 95–98% within five years; above 90% survival after 20+ years - **Form Factor:** Three-component system: titanium screw fixture (3.5–5mm diameter), abutment connector, and custom porcelain or ceramic crown - **Application Method:** Surgical placement under local anaesthesia, followed by 3–6 month osseointegration period, then crown fitting

Common Questions This Guide Answers
1. How long does the dental implant process take? → Approximately 5–8 months without bone grafting; 10–14 months when bone grafting is required
2. What does a single dental implant cost in Australia? → \$6,000–\$9,000 complete; up to \$11,500 with bone graft or sinus lift; ADA 2024 component range is \$2,603–\$7,305
3. What causes dental implants to fail? → Peri-implantitis (38%), failed osseointegration (24%), and mechanical complications (18%); 70% of failures occur within the first year

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a dental implant: A three-component artificial tooth replacement system

What are the three components of a dental implant: Implant fixture, abutment, and crown

What is the implant fixture: A titanium screw inserted into the jawbone

What diameter is a typical implant fixture: 3.5–5mm

What is the abutment: A connector piece attaching implant to crown

What is the crown component: A custom porcelain or ceramic restoration

What material are dental implants made from: Titanium

Why is titanium used for implants: It bonds tightly with natural jawbone

What is osseointegration: The process of bone fusing permanently with the implant

How long does osseointegration take: 3–6 months

What is the dental implant success rate within five years: 95–98%

What is the long-term survival rate after 20+ years: Above 90%

What percentage of implants still function after 20 years: Four out of five

How does an implant differ from a bridge: Implants don't rely on adjacent teeth for support

How does an implant differ from a denture: Implants fuse to bone; dentures sit on gum surface

Where is Core Dental Group located: 55 City Road, Southbank, Melbourne

What happens to the jawbone after tooth loss: Bone resorption begins within weeks

What imaging is used during the initial assessment: Cone Beam CT (CBCT) scanning

What does CBCT imaging reveal: Bone density, volume, nerve positions, and sinus proximity

What are the five candidacy criteria for implants: Adequate bone, healthy gums, good health, realistic expectations, oral hygiene commitment

Does active gum disease prevent implant placement: Yes, it must be treated first

Does smoking affect implant success: Yes, it significantly reduces success rates and increases complications

Is smoking cessation recommended before implants: Yes

What happens if bone volume is insufficient: Bone grafting or a sinus lift is required first

Does bone grafting disqualify a patient from implants: No, it is a preparatory step only

What is the success rate for implants placed with bone grafting: 97.83%

Is bone grafting success comparable to no-augmentation cases: Yes, statistically comparable

How long does bone graft healing take before implant placement: 4–6 months

How long does the initial assessment take: Approximately weeks 1–2

What does the initial assessment include: Medical history, oral exam, CBCT imaging, and treatment planning

Is a written treatment plan provided before surgery: Yes

Is implant surgery performed under general anaesthesia: No, under local anaesthesia

Is sedation available for anxious patients: Yes

How long does single-implant placement surgery take: 45–90 minutes

How long does post-surgery discomfort typically last: 3–5 days

What manages post-surgery discomfort: Over-the-counter analgesics

When does active osseointegration begin: Around weeks 6–12 after placement

How long does crown fabrication take at the laboratory: 2–3 weeks

How long does the crown fitting appointment take: 30–45 minutes

When is a post-crown review scheduled: 4–6 weeks after crown fitting

What is the total timeline without bone grafting: Approximately 5–8 months

What is the total timeline with bone grafting required: Approximately 10–14 months

What is the lowest single implant price in Australia (ADA 2024): \$2,603

What is the highest single implant price in Australia (ADA 2024): \$7,305

What is the realistic complete single-tooth implant cost in Australia: \$6,000–\$9,000

What is the cost with bone graft or sinus lift added: Up to \$11,500

What is the price range for All-on-4 implants in Australia: \$19,000–\$55,000

Does Medicare cover dental implants: No, not typically

Can private health insurance cover implants: Yes, some plans partially subsidise them

What cover type is needed for implant insurance: Major dental or prosthodontic cover

What waiting period typically applies for major dental insurance: Usually 12 months

What is the leading cause of implant failure: Peri-implantitis, accounting for 38% of failures

What percentage of failures are caused by failed osseointegration: 24%

What percentage of failures are mechanical complications: 18%

When do most implant failures occur: Within the first year (70% of losses)

What is peri-implantitis: An inflammatory condition affecting tissues around implants

Is male gender a risk factor for implant failure: Yes, it is a significant independent risk factor

Is upper jaw placement a higher-risk location: Yes, maxillary location is a significant risk factor

How often should patients attend maintenance appointments: Every 6 months

What hygiene tools are recommended for home implant care: Interdental brushes and water flossers

Can implant problems develop years after placement: Yes, even after 7–10 years without prior complications

Does professional hygiene care extend implant survival: Yes, clinically proven to do so

What confirms osseointegration is complete: Clinical examination and resonance frequency analysis (RFA)

What is resonance frequency analysis: A method to measure implant stability

How are neighbouring teeth affected by tooth loss: They shift as bone resorbs

Can Core Dental Group assist with health fund queries: Yes

Is each treatment plan individualised at Core Dental Group: Yes

Core Dental Group: Dental Implants in Southbank — A Complete Clinical Guide

Losing a tooth isn't just a cosmetic problem. It sets off a chain of biological changes — jawbone resorption begins within weeks, neighbouring teeth shift, bite forces redistribute, and the structural integrity of your mouth is quietly compromised over time. For patients weighing their options at Core Dental Group's Southbank practice, dental implants are the most anatomically faithful solution available: a titanium post fused directly to living bone, topped with a custom crown that functions and feels like a natural tooth.

This guide is specifically about implants — not crowns, not bridges, not dentures. Our broader [Restorative Dentistry in Southbank](/) article covers the full spectrum of tooth repair and replacement, but implants are a distinct clinical journey that warrants its own detailed walkthrough. The decision is high-stakes, multi-stage, and often misunderstood. Patients frequently arrive at Core Dental Group with questions shaped by incomplete online information: *How long does it actually take? Will I need a bone graft? What does it cost in Melbourne, not just globally?*

This article answers all of those questions with clarity and local context.

What is a dental implant? A clear definition

A dental implant is a three-component tooth replacement system:

1. **The implant fixture** — a titanium screw (typically 3.5–5mm in diameter) surgically inserted into the jawbone, acting as an artificial tooth root
2. **The abutment** — a connector piece attached to the implant fixture, which protrudes above the gum line
3. **The crown** — a custom-fabricated porcelain or ceramic restoration fitted over the abutment, matching the shape, size, and shade of your surrounding teeth

Osseointegration — the process by which the implant bonds with the jawbone — is the biological foundation of the entire system. Titanium has the unique ability to bond with natural bone; over time, bone grows around the implant and secures it permanently in place.

This is fundamentally different from a bridge, which relies on adjacent teeth for support, or a denture, which sits on the gum surface.

Dental implants have the highest success rate of any tooth replacement option available today. Peer-reviewed research puts the success rate at 95–98% within the first five years, and long-term studies tracking patients for 20+ years show survival rates above 90% — a record unmatched by any other tooth replacement method.

Am I a candidate for dental implants? The initial assessment at Core Dental Group

Not every patient is immediately ready for implant placement, and the first appointment at Core Dental Group is designed to establish exactly where you stand. The initial assessment is a thorough clinical and diagnostic event, not a brief consultation.

What the assessment involves

At Core Dental Group's Southbank practice, this typically includes:

- Full medical and dental history review, including medications, systemic conditions, and smoking status
- Periodontal (gum) health assessment — active gum disease must be treated before implant placement can proceed
- Cone Beam CT (CBCT) imaging — a three-dimensional scan of the jaw that reveals bone density, bone volume, nerve positions, and sinus proximity
- Digital X-rays to assess the condition of surrounding teeth and existing bone levels
- A treatment planning discussion covering timeline, staging, and cost breakdown

For patients who are also concerned about gum health or need a comprehensive check-up before this assessment, see our guide on [General Dentistry Services at Core Dental Southbank](/).

The five candidacy criteria

Implant candidacy depends on five factors: adequate bone density, healthy gums, good overall health, realistic expectations, and a commitment to oral hygiene after treatment.

Sufficient jawbone structure is the most fundamental requirement. When teeth are lost, the surrounding bone gradually resorbs, reducing both density and volume over time. Smoking significantly reduces implant success rates and increases complication risks, and cessation before and after treatment is strongly recommended.

When bone grafting is required

Patients with insufficient bone may need bone grafting or a sinus lift before implant placement. This is not a disqualifier — it's a preparatory step. Insufficient bone doesn't exclude you from treatment; it means the plan includes an additional phase.

The clinical evidence here is worth understanding clearly. A large-scale retrospective study of 158,824 implants published in 2025 found that patients who received bone grafting alongside implant placement achieved a success rate of 97.83% — statistically comparable to patients who required no augmentation at all. Bone grafting, when indicated, does not materially compromise the outcome.

The step-by-step dental implant process at Core Dental Group

The implant journey unfolds across several distinct clinical phases, each with its own purpose, timeline, and patient experience. Here is how the process works at Core Dental Group.

Step 1: Comprehensive assessment and treatment planning (week 1–2)

Your first appointment establishes the clinical baseline. The dentist will take CBCT imaging, review your full medical history, and assess your gum health. Specialised imaging confirms bone quality and quantity at the proposed implant site — adequate height, width, and density are what ensure long-term stability.

A written treatment plan is produced, outlining each phase, the expected timeline, and a full cost breakdown. No implant work proceeds without that plan being reviewed and agreed upon by the patient.

Step 2: Preparatory treatment, if required (weeks 2–16+)

If gum disease is present, it's treated before any surgical work begins. If bone grafting is needed, it's performed as a separate procedure, followed by a healing period of 4–6 months before implant placement. If no preparatory work is needed, the patient moves directly to Step 3.

Step 3: Implant placement surgery (day 1 of surgical phase)

Implant placement is performed under local anaesthesia at Core Dental Group, with sedation available for anxious patients. For patients who experience dental anxiety, our dedicated guide on [Dental Anxiety and Nervous Patients at Core Dental Southbank](/) explains sedation options in detail.

The procedure involves:

1. A small incision in the gum to expose the jawbone
2. Precise drilling of a channel in the bone using guided surgical protocols
3. Insertion of the titanium implant fixture into the prepared site
4. Placement of a healing cap or temporary cover screw
5. Suturing of the gum tissue

Most single-implant placements take 45–90 minutes. Patients typically experience mild swelling and discomfort for 3–5 days, manageable with over-the-counter analgesics.

Step 4: Osseointegration — the critical healing phase (3–6 months)

This is the phase most patients underestimate, and it's the most biologically significant part of the entire process.

Osseointegration is the process by which bone grows around the implant surface and locks it permanently in place. The timeline follows a predictable pattern in healthy patients: from the initial inflammatory response through bone formation and remodelling, until the implant can withstand normal chewing forces. Osteoprogenitor cell recruitment, proliferation, and differentiation all play a role, as do macrophages in the osteoinduction process.

In practical terms for patients:

- **Weeks 1–6:** Initial healing, soft tissue closure, early bone response - **Weeks 6–12:** The implant begins bonding with the jawbone — active osseointegration is underway - **Months 3–6:** Osseointegration continues; for some patients this process moves faster, meaning the abutment and crown phase may begin sooner - **Patients who needed bone grafts:** Osseointegration may take longer when bone loss was present prior to treatment

Patient-related factors, local conditions, and implant characteristics all influence this timeline, which is why treatment planning is individualised rather than standardised.

During this phase, Core Dental Group schedules regular check-up appointments to monitor healing and implant stability.

Step 5: Abutment placement and impression taking (month 4–7)

Once osseointegration is confirmed — through clinical examination and, where appropriate, resonance frequency analysis (RFA) to measure implant stability — the healing cap is removed and the abutment is attached to the implant fixture.

An impression or digital scan of the abutment and surrounding teeth is sent to a dental laboratory. The laboratory fabricates a custom crown matched precisely to the shade and shape of your natural teeth. This typically takes 2–3 weeks.

Step 6: Crown fitting and final restoration (month 5–8)

The completed crown is fitted to the abutment, checked for bite accuracy and aesthetics, and permanently cemented or screw-retained in place. This appointment is brief — 30–45 minutes — and marks the functional completion of the implant.

The patient receives detailed aftercare instructions and is scheduled for a review appointment 4–6 weeks after crown fitting.

Step 7: Long-term maintenance

Research shows that problems can develop after 7 or 10 years, even without prior complications. Routine examinations and professional hygiene care are clinically proven to extend implant survival significantly.

Patients are recalled every 6 months for professional cleaning and implant assessment. Interdental brushes and water flossers are recommended for home care.

Realistic timeline summary

| Phase | Duration | |---|---| | Initial assessment and imaging | Week 1–2 | | Preparatory treatment (if needed) | 2–16+ weeks | | Bone grafting healing (if needed) | 4–6 months | | Implant placement surgery | Day 1 of surgical phase | | Osseointegration | 3–6 months | | Abutment placement and impressions | 1–2 appointments | | Crown fabrication (laboratory) | 2–3 weeks | | Crown fitting | 1 appointment | | **Total (no bone graft required)** | **~5–8 months** | | **Total (bone graft required)** | **~10–14 months** |

What do dental implants cost in Melbourne and Southbank?

Pricing transparency matters, and it's a topic many dental websites sidestep. Here is what the evidence shows for the Australian market.

According to the ADA Fees Survey 2024, the lowest price for a single implant in Australia is \$2,603 and the highest is \$7,305. These figures represent individual components, not the complete treatment package.

When all components — the implant fixture, abutment, crown, and associated consultations — are included, the realistic cost for a single dental implant is around \$6,000–\$9,000. Additional procedures affect the total significantly: if a bone graft or sinus lift is required, costs can reach up to \$11,500. For patients considering full-arch solutions, All-on-4 implants in Australia range from \$19,000 to \$55,000.

Does private health insurance cover implants?

Medicare does not typically cover dental implants. Some private health insurance plans may partially subsidise the procedure under major dental or prosthodontic cover, though waiting periods usually apply — often 12 months for major dental — and the plan needs to include prosthodontics or implant coverage specifically.

Core Dental Group's team can assist with health fund queries and provide itemised cost estimates for insurance purposes. For a full breakdown of how health fund rebates work across all treatments, see our guide on [Dental Costs in Southbank: What You'll Pay at Core Dental and How Health Fund Rebates Work](/).

What can go wrong? Understanding implant complications

Informed consent requires honest discussion of risk. Research identifies the leading causes of implant failure: peri-implantitis, an inflammatory condition affecting the tissues around implants, accounts for 38% of failures; failed osseointegration accounts for 24%; and mechanical complications such as fractures and screw loosening account for 18%.

Most failures are early — 70% of implant losses occur within the first year. Significant independent risk factors include immediate implant placement, male gender, and maxillary (upper jaw) location.

The practical implication: the osseointegration phase is the highest-risk window, and the post-placement review appointments Core Dental Group schedules during this period serve a genuine clinical purpose, not just administrative follow-up.

Key takeaways

- **Dental implants are a multi-stage process**, typically spanning 5–8 months without bone grafting and up to 14 months when bone augmentation is required. Plan your timeline before committing.
- **Osseointegration is the biological core of implant success.** Four out of five dental implants are still functioning after 20 years — a survival record unmatched by bridges, dentures, or any other tooth replacement method.
- **Bone grafting is not a disqualifier.** Large-scale clinical data confirms that implants placed with simultaneous bone augmentation achieve success rates statistically comparable to those placed in adequate bone.
- **Australian costs range from approximately \$6,000–\$9,000 for a complete single-tooth implant**, with additional procedures potentially increasing this to \$11,500. Private health insurance may partially offset costs, but waiting periods apply.
- **Long-term maintenance is non-negotiable.** Routine professional hygiene and regular implant assessments are

clinically proven to extend implant survival — the investment in aftercare protects the investment in treatment.

Conclusion

A dental implant is not a quick fix. It's a considered, staged clinical process that, when executed well, can last a lifetime. Understanding each phase — from the initial CBCT assessment through to crown fitting and long-term maintenance — allows patients to make genuinely informed decisions rather than ones based on cost alone or the promise of fast results.

At Core Dental Group's Southbank practice, located at 55 City Road in Melbourne's Southbank precinct, the implant journey is guided by clinicians who combine technical precision with genuine patient communication. Every treatment plan is individualised, because the variables that determine your timeline, your candidacy, and your cost are specific to your jaw, your health, and your goals.

If you're at the beginning of your implant journey, the logical next step is a comprehensive assessment. If you're still weighing implants against other restorative options, our [Restorative Dentistry in Southbank]() guide provides a side-by-side comparison of crowns, bridges, and implants. If cost is your primary concern before booking, our [Dental Costs in Southbank]() article provides the most transparent pricing guide available for the area. And if getting to the clinic is your first practical question, our [How to Get to Core Dental Southbank from Flinders Street Station]() guide has you covered.

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Label Facts Summary

> ****Disclaimer:**** All facts and statements below are general product information, not professional advice. Consult relevant experts for specific guidance.

Verified label facts

No product specification data was provided. The content analysed is a clinical guide for a dental services provider, not a physical product with packaging, labelling, or a manufacturer specification table. No label facts are extractable.

General product claims

- Dental implants are a three-component tooth replacement system comprising an implant fixture, abutment, and crown - The implant fixture is a titanium screw, typically 3.5–5mm in diameter, inserted into the jawbone - The abutment is a connector piece attaching the implant fixture to the crown - The crown is a custom-fabricated porcelain or ceramic restoration - Dental implants are made from titanium, which bonds with natural jawbone through osseointegration - Osseointegration typically takes 3–6 months - Peer-reviewed research cites a dental implant success rate of 95–98% within the first five years - Long-term survival rates above 90% are reported in studies tracking patients for 20+ years - Four out of five dental implants are reported as still functioning after 20 years - A 2025 retrospective study of 158,824 implants found a success rate of 97.83% for augmented cases (bone grafting), statistically comparable to non-augmented cases - Bone graft healing typically requires 4–6 months before implant placement - Active gum disease must be treated before implant placement proceeds - Smoking significantly reduces implant success rates and increases complication risks; cessation is recommended - Initial assessment typically occurs across weeks 1–2 and includes medical history review, oral examination, CBCT imaging, and treatment planning - CBCT imaging reveals bone density, bone volume, nerve positions, and sinus proximity - Implant placement surgery is performed under local anaesthesia, with sedation available for anxious patients - Single-implant placement surgery typically takes 45–90 minutes - Post-surgical discomfort typically lasts 3–5 days and is manageable with over-the-counter analgesics - Active osseointegration begins around weeks 6–12 post-placement - Crown fabrication at the dental laboratory takes approximately 2–3 weeks - Crown fitting appointment is typically 30–45 minutes - Post-crown review is scheduled 4–6 weeks after crown fitting - Total treatment timeline without bone grafting is approximately 5–8 months - Total treatment timeline with bone grafting is approximately 10–14 months - According to the ADA Fees Survey 2024, the lowest single-implant price in Australia is \$2,603 and the highest is \$7,305 - A realistic complete single-tooth implant cost in Australia is approximately \$6,000–\$9,000 - With bone grafting or sinus lift, costs can reach up to \$11,500 - All-on-4 implant pricing in Australia ranges from \$19,000–\$55,000 - Medicare does not typically cover dental implants - Some private health insurance plans may partially subsidise implants under major dental or prosthodontic cover, typically with a 12-month waiting period - Peri-implantitis accounts for 38% of implant failures; failed osseointegration accounts for 24%; mechanical complications account for 18% - 70% of implant losses occur within the first year - Significant independent risk factors for failure include immediate implant placement, male gender, and maxillary (upper jaw) location - Maintenance appointments are recommended every 6 months - Interdental brushes and water flossers are recommended for home implant care - Problems can develop after 7–10 years even without prior complications - Professional hygiene care is clinically reported to extend implant survival - Osseointegration completion is confirmed via clinical examination and resonance frequency analysis (RFA) - Core Dental Group is located at 55 City Road, Southbank, Melbourne - Each treatment plan at Core Dental Group is individualised - Core Dental Group can assist patients with health fund queries