



An Overview of the Implant Process

Implant treatment normally involves several stages that take place over a period of time from three (3) to nine (9) months.

Assessment and treatment planning: Dr. Tim Moss or Dr. Kevin Moss will have a consultation with you and a full discussion of all possible alternatives for treatment. X-rays will be taken and possibly models of the teeth. A treatment plan will then be formulated detailing the sequence of treatment and associated costs.

▪ **Bone Graft/Sinus Lift:** The bone graft procedure attempts to correct a deficiency or defect in a patient's bone. If the implant will be placed in the upper jaw a sinus lift might be needed to make room for the bone. The sinus membrane has to be moved upward or "lifted". With the correct augmentation, it is possible to ensure both the desired bone quality and quantity, perform a successful implant procedure, and reach improved esthetic results. Once this procedure is completed there is a **three (3) to six (6)** month healing period before the implant can be placed.

▪ **Implant placement:** Implant placement is a relatively simple minor surgical procedure that can be performed in the office. The treatment is performed using local anesthetic. The newly placed implant will be left undisturbed for a period of **four (4) to six (6) months**. During this phase the bone will grow and the tissue will shape around the implant to form a strong biological bond. In the meantime, if needed, we will place a temporary tooth on the implant.

▪ **Second stage/placement of healing cap:** Once the implant has become fused to the bone, we will take an x-ray to confirm that you are ready for the second stage of surgery. This surgery is much simpler than the first. A small incision is made to expose the top of the implant. A "collar" or "healing cap" is placed on the head of the implant. This guides the gum tissue to heal correctly. We let your tissue heal for **ten (10) to fourteen (14) days** after which it will be time for the final restoration.

▪ **The restorative phase:** Once integrated, the implants can be brought into function with a variety of new teeth options ranging from a single crown, small or large bridge or a removable overdenture. An impression will be taken at the office and then the case is sent to our lab for fabrication. **Two (2) weeks later** we will deliver your appliance.