

## **Implant Retained Denture Maintenance**

Implant retained dentures require ongoing care and maintenance to ensure that the implants remain healthy in the long term. Unlike teeth, decay is not possible in dental implants. However, gum disease is still possible around dental implants, and once established, it can be more difficult to manage in some cases than in normal teeth.

Gum disease is the biggest cause of failure of dental implants long term.

For this reason, it is important that you follow the cleaning instructions you have been given and maintain a good standard of oral hygiene. These include twice daily tooth brushing of your dental implant attachments. If there is a bar present in your mouth, you should use Xfloss or a waterpick to clean under this on a daily basis.

Your denture/s should be cleaned with a toothbrush and water after each meal before being replaced in your mouth. Overnight, they can be soaked in water with a denture cleaning tablet.

If you are still not sure about how to clean around your dental implants, please contact us to arrange an additional oral hygiene instruction visit with our dental hygienist.

It is important that you continue to attend for 6 monthly examinations to assess the health of your dental implants whether you have teeth or not, so that any early potential disease can be identified and managed with minimal intervention.

It is also important to continue with 6 monthly hygienist visits, so that gum health can be maintained and to ensure gum inflammation and early gum disease is kept under control.

Your dentures should be inserted with your fingers, not by biting them into position. This is to minimise the early wear and tear of the denture attachments which hold them firmly in place. These attachments will need to be replaced at variable intervals as the retention reduces over time.

Due to the increased biting forces that you will be able to apply with your better retained denture/s, it will be necessary to reline the denture more often than for standard dentures. This will be assessed at your routine examinations, with the first reline usually done at approximately 2-3 years after insert.

If you have any further questions, please contact the practice on 07 54432011. Please sign below to acknowledge that you have read and understood the information explained above.

Patient Name: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....