

CROOKES & JENKINS

DENTAL



Dental Implants

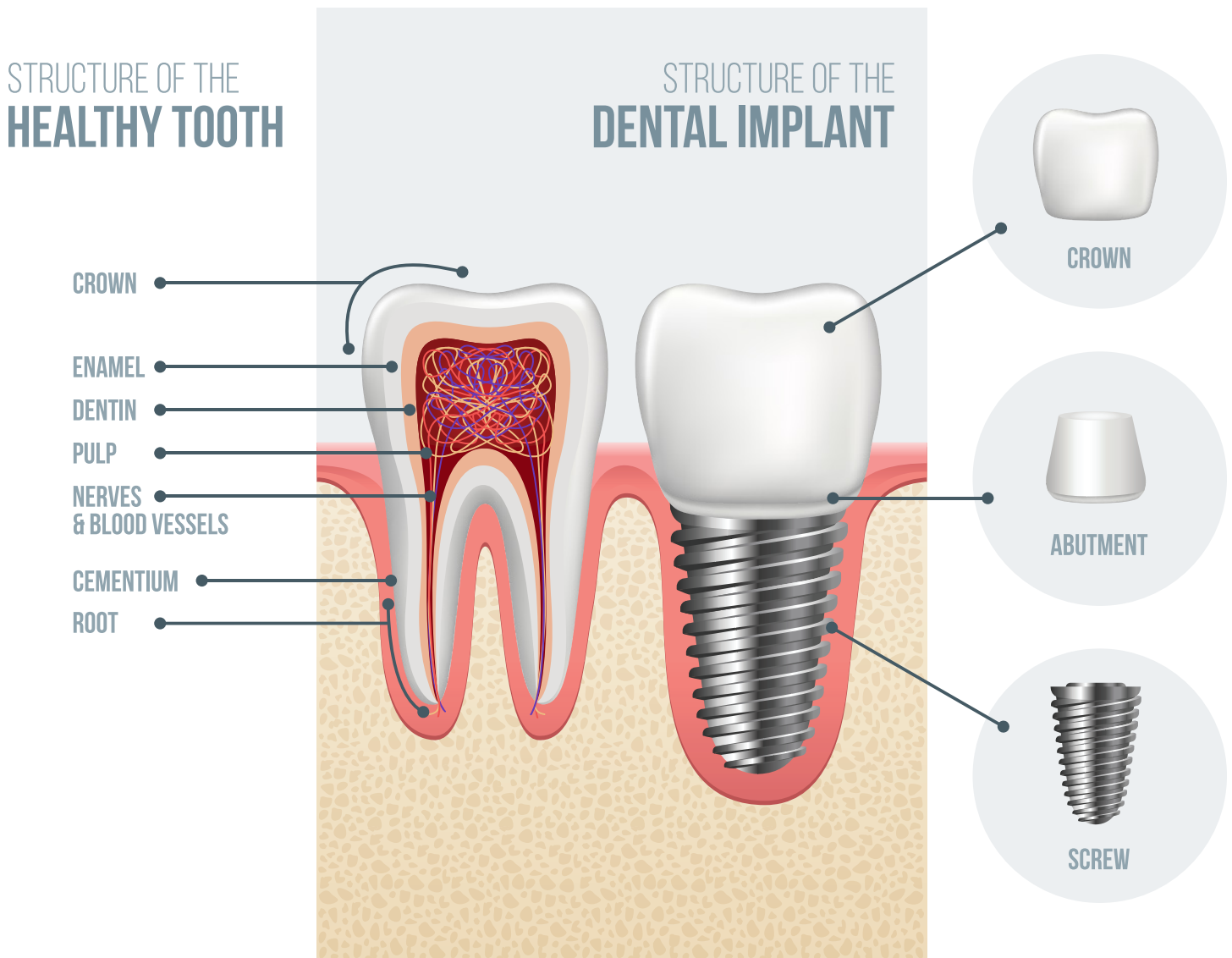
Information Pack

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crookesandjenkinsdental.com.au

Dental Implants

Dental implants are artificial tooth roots that are inserted into the jawbone to replace missing natural teeth. Implants and their attached crowns closely resemble the function and look of real teeth. They can be a great alternative to bridges or dentures. A dental implant consists of a metal “root” that is inserted into the jawbone. An artificial tooth (crown) is attached to the implant by use of an abutment (see below). In some cases, instead of an artificial tooth, an implant can be fitted with special clips or attachments (similar to press-studs) to hold a denture. The studs will minimise movement of the denture. The studs will minimise movement of the denture.



Procedure

Dr Crookes or Dr Jenkins will refer you to an implant specialist to be assessed for treatment. At this stage the specialist will make sure there is sufficient bone available to accept the implant.

In most cases, the dental implant procedure involves three separate treatment stages, and can take up to six months or more.

1. Insertion of the implant into the bone

The specialist exposes the underlying bone and drills a hole to accept the implant. The implant is inserted into the drilled hole and a healing abutment is placed over the top. The stability of the implant improves as bone grows on the surface of the implant—this is called osseointegration. This process can take up to six months.

2. Insertion of the abutment onto the implant:

This occurs after the bone has healed around the implant. The abutment is the support post or connector between the implant and the crown. A dental impression of your mouth may be taken to finalise the design of the artificial tooth crown. The impression is then sent to a laboratory so that the artificial tooth crown can be fabricated. This may take up to 2 weeks.

3. Attachment of the artificial tooth (crown) to the abutment or connector:

The artificial tooth is either cemented or screwed onto the abutment. The success of osseointegration depends on factors such as your general and dental health, the amount of bone, rate of healing, degree of integration between the implant and the bone, and the extent of any other dental problems.

Application of Dental Implants

Dental implants can replace one or several missing teeth. In some cases, an entire set of artificial teeth can be carried on dental implants.

Maintaining Dental Implants

A dental implant is designed to last for many years, but poor oral hygiene can shorten its lifespan. Good oral hygiene is crucial. Like real teeth, artificial teeth that are not regularly brushed and flossed can develop deposits (plaque and calculus) that eventually lead to dental problems such as bleeding gums, loss of bone, infection and pain. Properly maintained implants that are anchored by sufficient bone can last for many years, although repairs may be expected like any other dental appliance.



Possible Complications

- **Inhaling or swallowing equipment or parts** — surgery may be needed to remove the object.
- **Speech problems** — can occur after the fitting of the artificial tooth or teeth. This usually resolves, however speech therapy may be recommended.
- **Gum overgrowth (hyperplasia)** — can be reversed with good oral hygiene, or it can be surgically removed.
- **Local infection around the implant** — If the infection does not respond to antibiotics, the dentist may have to remove the implant
- **Systemic infection** — in certain people, implants can lead to infective endocarditis, which is a potentially life threatening infection of the heart.
- **Bone loss** — in rare cases, the implant causes bone loss, and the implant is eventually lost.
- **Loose implant** — the implant may fail to integrate with the bone, or become unstable over time.
- **Damaged implant** — the artificial tooth may come loose and may need to be retightened. The tooth could also chip or break, and would then need replacing.
- **Affected sinus** — an implant may perforate the sinus lining and cause infection. Antibiotics are typically used to treat the infection.
- **Fractured lower jaw** — rarely the lower jaw may break during the procedure. Specialist treatment may be needed.
- **Damaged nerve** — placement of the implant into the nerve in the lower jaw may cause numbness of the gums, lips or skin around the mouth. In most cases, this resolves within 6-18 months. In some cases, the numbness is permanent.





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