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Implant procedures

1. Consultation in our office to see if implant supported crowns or bridges are appropriate for you. At this appointment we will check your current health status and the general condition of your teeth and gums, as well as the alignment of teeth around the space that needs to be restored. Impressions for study models and x-rays may be taken at this time.
2. Consultation with the surgeon who will perform the placement of the root portion of the implant restoration. He/she will evaluate your general health, the condition of your teeth and gums and the character, shape and volume of the bone into which the implants will be placed. Any adjunctive procedures such as extractions, bone grafts or sinus lifts may be planned at this stage. The final decision to proceed should be made at this time.
3. Impressions for a surgical guide (stent) at our office. This is a brief appointment during which we will take impressions to fabricate a surgical guide to be used by the surgeon during the placement of the implant. We then plan the position and shape of the crowns or bridges and make a small plastic guide which will correctly locate the position and angle of placement of each implant. The surgeon may modify this if necessary when the shape of the bone is not ideal. Please allow one to two weeks before making an appointment for the placement of the implant with the surgeon. This gives us time to fabricate the guide and send it to the surgeon.
4. Placement of the root portion of the implant restoration by the surgeon. At least one follow up appointment is usually necessary. Please discuss any details with the surgeon.

5. Waiting period of 4-6 months. During this time, you may not see the root portion of the implant at all, as it may be covered by gum tissue. This waiting period is critical; it allows the bone to heal and grow tightly around the implant, a process referred to as osseointegration.
6. Appointment with the surgeon to uncover the implant. At this time, a small amount of gum tissue will be removed just over the implant and a healing cap will be installed, which protrudes through the gum tissue. After another healing period, usually about two weeks, you are ready for the placement of the crown. At this time, the surgeon will inform us that the procedure was successful and you are ready for the next step. We will order any necessary parts for the fabrication of the crowns or bridges at this time.
7. Appointment in our office to take final impressions. At this time we will take impressions which transfer the exact position of the implant into a stone model of your teeth. The healing cap will be removed during this appointment and replaced again before you leave.
8. Appointment in our office to install the crown. The healing cap will be removed and the crown will be tried in, adjusted and installed. A screw hole in the crown will be filled with a standard filling material.

Please note that the charges from our office and the surgeon's office are separate and financial arrangements need to be made separately. As always, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to call.