



PERIODONTICS & DENTAL IMPLANT CENTRE

Dear Patient,

Just as a follow up to our last appointment, please keep in mind the following generalised issues regarding implant crowns.

The crown is screwed down to the implant and may come loose in instances where there is heavy biting or grinding of the teeth at night, especially in situations where other teeth are missing. Usually these aspects will be discussed with you at your consultation appointment and if you are a night time bruxer (grinder), wearing of a night guard has been discussed with you already. Please note screw loosening is a true emergency and if you feel any mobility on the crown, please stop chewing on that side and call the office for re-tightening of the screw. Often times we will order a new screw for the crown and replace the old one before sealing the screw access hole again. We may also check your bite and if there have been changes to your current dentition with further loss of teeth this can often be the reason for screw loosening.

The second issue is loss of the filling that is used to cover the screw access hole, this is not a true emergency, but more of a nuisance and may cause food packing which leads to an odor. It will require meticulous cleaning of that region until a new filling is placed, however you may continue to chew on the implant crown.

On rare occasions the porcelain on the crown may chip, usually this requires removal of the crown to be sent back to the dental laboratory where the porcelain is reapplied. This only occurs in patient's who are heavy grinders or if they bite on something hard. Typical examples are pork crackling, the stone of fruits, and holding sewing needles between the teeth which applies a strong localised force through the porcelain. Porcelain chipping may be due to laboratory procedures such as porosity internally, however these are extremely rare, and usually the laboratory has a 5-10 year warranty due to the high standards of work.

Swelling, pain or tenderness around the implant crown may be directly related to the implant health and not the crown necessarily. In these instances the periodontist (surgeon) or the prosthodontist are both able to examine the site and may take an x-ray to look at the implant within the jaw bone.

As has been re-iterated to you, hygiene is the most important aspect in success of your prosthesis. This includes home care with floss and interproximal brushes as well as professional cleans with the hygienists every six months so that they can intervene if issues should arise. Please do not hesitate to contact our office should you have any queries or would like to discuss oral hygiene devices to make your job at home easier.

Thank you your attendance at our office, it has been a pleasure looking after your dental needs.

Kind regards

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