



PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

Implants - Is cost the only consideration?

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The number one question on Google Trends reference dental implants is cost. After a few seconds of searching around it is quite easy to see why. I found a tenfold variance in estimated cost from £320 to £3000. I will not get involved in whether these implants are good or bad. I am sure there are some fantastically good inexpensive implants and some expensive disasters. All I want to do is try to clarify some of the cost issues and some of the information on the websites out there. Not all implants, dentists or patients are the same.

1. The premium priced implants will usually belong to larger companies such as Astra, Straumann and Nobel Biocare. These companies pioneered almost all the research and development of implants and have excellent global support and after-care. The less expensive systems can involve generic copies and clones specific to only certain countries. Product quality and customer support for these products can be variable and some could be illegal to use in the EU.
2. Beware of overstated claims of success that exceed the published research. As a rule of thumb in an ideal world the 10 year success should be around 90% at best.
3. You will need to differentiate between a clinic that does implants and a dentist who does implants. How long has the dentist worked at that practice and how many days a month are they there to deal with any problems? There are a lot of advantages in seeking out a stable practice environment because implants can throw up a lot of complications especially after 5 years in place. You don't want to find your dentist has moved on.
4. It's not how many implants you can place in a patient's mouth but how few will get the job done well. I have seen patients with 11 implants where 2 would have done an equally good job. Make sure all sensible alternatives to implants have been discussed and potential complications and additional expenses covered.
5. Make sure your treatment plan makes sense and get a second or third opinion and research the subject very carefully.
6. If you chose to go overseas for any dental surgery are you prepared to go back if there are complications? Consumer protection may be different than here in the UK.



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