



Immediate Full Arch Loading Dental Implant Treatment (IFAL)

Introduction

We have recommended that you would be suitable to undergo an Immediate Full Arch Loading Procedure (IFAL). IFAL consists of placing dental implants in a full jaw, or both jaws, and attempting to place an immediate provisional or temporary restoration in place on the same day. It is essential that patients undergoing this treatment fully understand the challenges and detail of the procedure required and this information leaflet is designed to assist in that process.

Before any patient commences with Immediate Full Arch Restoration, or indeed any full arch restoration with implants, it is important to understand that this is a complex procedure where complications do and are likely to occur.

Some of the best scientific evidence available for the long-term survival of full arch restorations suggest that almost all patients will suffer some form of complication, either minor or major, during the first ten years of having their full arch restoration.

It is for this reason that Gunning Dental go to such lengths to plan cases and to discuss cases with patients in advance of treatment. It is extremely important though, that as a patient undertaking such treatment, you are aware of this and accept that complications may occur and that. We will do all it can to assist you if complications do occur. It is essential that you feel fully informed regarding the positive and possible negative aspects of treatment before you proceed.

IFAL is a complicated surgical and restorative procedure which requires multiple clinical staff and detailed clinical techniques. The diagnosis and planning of an IFAL procedure is critical and patient selection is paramount in all cases. To this end you will meet many members of the team as you proceed through your IFAL treatment journey including;

1. A surgeon who will extract teeth (if necessary), place dental implants and provide bone grafting procedures as required.
2. A clinician who will provide sedation.
3. A restorative dentist who will connect the initial temporary/ provisional restoration on the day of surgery and construct the final restoration approximately three months later.
4. A clinical dental technician who will make the initial provisional restoration and surgical guides prior to the surgical appointments.
5. An implant treatment coordinator who will coordinate your treatment and contact you before and after treatment to ensure that all is well.
6. An expert dental hygienist who will ensure that your mouth is clean for surgery prior to the procedure and ensure that your cleaning after the procedure is ideal.

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The Procedure Itself

IFAL generally proceeds under intravenous sedation with placement of dental implants and attempted placement of a provisional restoration made in acrylic. This follows a period of extensive diagnosis and planning which will cover approximately four visits and also hygiene therapy to ensure that your mouth is as clean as possible. During the planning stages you will undergo dental impression, x-rays, full dental examination, a dental CT examination and assessment for sedation. We will only proceed to recommend IFAL if we deem that you are suitable for this and not all patients are suitable for various reasons.

The alternative procedure to IFAL for patients who are losing all of their teeth or who do not have teeth is a process known as conventional loading (CL). This involves placement of dental implants and allowing the area to heal before a restoration is placed for approximately three months. This would mean wearing a temporary denture which may or may not be supported by mini implants instead of placing an immediate restoration.

Comparing IFAL with CL

Many patients believe that IFAL is the best possible option but if a patient is not suitable for IFAL the results can be disastrous. On recommendation from the clinical team at Gunning Dental we will explain to you why you would be suitable for one procedure or another and which we recommend. Conventional loading is generally preferred in patients who have suffered serious gum disease unless otherwise indicated.

IFAL - the procedure on the day

Generally the procedure starts in the early morning

- Patients local anaesthetic to ensure they are comfortable through the surgical phase.
- Remove remaining teeth (if required) and place a number of dental implants (between 6-8), grafting and stitches. It may be necessary to place a different number of implants than are initially planned depending on the clinical circumstance which occurs.
- The restorative clinician will fit the provisional restoration this is essentially a cut back denture made of acrylic with a metal strengthener in place. Due to this it is essential that the transition between denture and gum at the front of the mouth is not visible and this involves removal of bone in this area to ensure the transition line between denture and gum is high under the lip. It depends on individual cases as how much bone needs to be removed. Conventional loading (CL) does not require bone removal in this fashion.
- Procedures generally take the entire day. Patients are given full instructions and all medications as required and generally given some form of snack in the middle of the day to ensure they feel well. Patients are followed up extremely carefully by the practice with the use of clinical examinations and x-rays as they proceed to final restoration which is either a definitive metal and porcelain restoration or / and high quality.
- The final restoration is usually completed around four months following surgery.



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Advantages of IFAL against CL

1. Patients generally receive an immediate fixed in restoration on the day of surgery.
2. Patients do not have to wear a removable temporary denture.
3. The initial surgery and restorative phase are carried out in one day under sedation.

Potential downsides IFAL

1. It is sometimes not possible to place as many implants as we would like due to clinical circumstances. Other risk factors of implant surgery also apply.
2. On occasion it is not possible to fix the provisional restoration in the patient's mouth on the implants due to clinical circumstances. Although rare patients should be aware that they may in fact require to wear a denture for the three month healing period if clinical circumstances dictate.
3. The provisional restoration placed is an acrylic (plastic) restoration and can be fragile. Patients need to be extremely careful and fracture of the restoration is possible. We ask patients to bear this in mind if organising important events such as weddings. Gunning Dental will fix temporary restorations ASAP.

IFAL Treatment Guarantee Information

Gunning Dental is delighted to offer a guarantee for patients undergoing immediate full arch reconstructions (same day teeth reconstruction).

This is a demonstration of our attention to detail in the provision of dental implant treatment and our experience as a group of clinicians in providing many thousands of dental implant procedures successfully.

In otherwise healthy individuals who have not had extensive treatment for gum disease and who do not smoke we are delighted to offer a 5 year guarantee on implant restorations, including survival of the dental implant and the prosthetic (tooth) component associated with this.

This guarantee is dependent upon patients attending for recommended maintenance appointments throughout the guarantee period and is invalid if appointments are not attended. It is impossible for us to maintain a complicated dental implant situation or advise on possible remedial treatment if patients do not attend for maintenance appointments.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE GUARANTEE:

1. Patients with extensive, treated gum disease are at higher risk of peri-implant disease.
2. For patients who are smokers or recently stopped smoking there is an increased risk of complications associated with dental implants.
3. Wear and tear of components such as denture locator abutments and their components.