Why implants need even better care than natural teeth.

→ How to increase the lifespan of your implant.
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Your dentist has given you an excellent implant. His work is now finished, and you can show your radiant smile again. To keep it for as long as possible, you now need to look after your implant properly.

This brochure answers the questions:

Why do I need to take such care with oral health, now that I have an implant that won’t decay? How can I ensure the best possible oral hygiene – simply, gently and effectively?

To make sure that you are satisfied with your implant for a long time to come, we recommend that you read this brochure. It is important that you arrange your oral hygiene so that it is appropriate for your new implant.

Products from CURAPROX, the Swiss oral health professionals, will help you to do this. These products are recommended by dental professionals all over the world.
Is it true that dental implants won’t fracture or decay?

Up to a point, yes: they certainly won’t get caries. But the chances of getting inflammation and periodontitis around the implant (‘peri-implantitis’) are increased. This is a destructive inflammatory process affecting the bone in which the implant is embedded. Inflammation can be relieved, but not peri-implantitis.

Reason
This disease originates in the gum line, or gingival sulcus. Even with natural teeth, bacteria don’t find it too hard to settle in the narrow cleft between the teeth and the gums, and provoke inflammation and even periodontitis. With implants, bacteria find it even easier. The reasons are explained in this brochure.

Solution
The most important factor is proper prevention: this means cleaning your teeth regularly with the right tools in the right places.
The difference between a tooth and an implant

Now we need to use a few technical terms. They make it easier to understand why you need to take such good care of your implant.

The periodontal space
Natural teeth are firmly embedded in the periodontium - the bone and soft tissues that surround and support the tooth. This includes the periodontal space. This space is situated between the root of the tooth and the bone of its socket in the jaw, and the tissue in the space (the periodontal ligament) has a plentiful blood supply. The blood carries important defensive substances that provide protection against bacteria entering through the sulcus, the cleft between the tooth and the gums. So a natural tooth is not seated in the bone itself, but in the periodontal space. This has the advantage that there is a good blood supply just where the bacteria are found.

Less blood flow means less defence against bacteria
However, with an implant this periodontal space is missing: there is no protective tissue between the tooth and the bony socket, and the blood flow is not as good, because the remaining tissue is scarred. Without a good blood supply, the defences against bacteria are significantly weakened.
Instead of sitting in the periodontal space with its well-vascularised tissue, the implant is located directly in the bone (right-hand side of the diagram). Bacteria find it easier than with a natural tooth.
Not attached
The surface of the implant doesn’t allow the gums to attach firmly. The sulcus (the gap between the gums and the tooth) can no longer perform its function of combating bacteria.

Result
With an implant, bacteria can penetrate more deeply into the sulcus than with a natural tooth. And the normal defences against bacteria are weakened, because they depend to a large extent on the blood supply, which has been reduced.

It is well worth taking good care to clean the gap between the tooth and gums (or implant and gums) properly – because this gap (sulcus) is where most of the bacteria are. They are removed mechanically, with a toothbrush, interdental brushes and special implant-cleaning floss.
Risk: mucositis and peri-implantitis

Bacteria accumulate in the sulcus. If the sulcus is not properly cleaned, bacterial deposits (plaque) form, and this results in inflammation around the implant (mucositis). In the course of time this inflammation can cross over to the bone and cause further disease, leading to degradation of the bone in which the implant is located, referred to as peri-implantitis.

No pain
Mucositis and peri-implantitis are hardly noticeable and are not painful.

The only sign of disease is bleeding gums, which may be an alarm signal - so it is important that you have regular check-ups.
Now the good news

The lifetime of an implant is very dependent on careful oral hygiene. If bacteria and plaque are thoroughly and gently removed or disrupted on a regular basis, inflammation and peri-implantitis can usually be avoided, and your implant will probably last for a very long time.

**Best conditions**
Clean the gap between the implant and gums as carefully as possible twice a day. It’s just at this point, where the implant emerges from your gums, that bacteria settle, deposit plaque and damage the tissues.

**How?**
Clean right around the implant, because the gum line also goes all the way around. Use your toothbrush and interdental brush, perhaps dental floss or implant-cleaning floss as well, and preferably an ultrasonic toothbrush. These products remove or disrupt plaque mechanically; this is really the best option. Mouthwashes can help, but only if they contain chlorhexidine, and you should only use these mouthwashes after consulting your dentist or oral surgeon.

**And furthermore**
Avoid the risk factors – especially poor oral hygiene, smoking and stress. Some systemic diseases such as diabetes also increase the risk.
Oral health aids to suit you

CURAPROX products are designed to care for your gum line. We especially recommend the particularly gentle and thorough, non-harmful cleaning provided by a Hydrosonic sonic toothbrush; plus CPS prime and/or CPS implant interdental brushes. With its extremely fine bristles, a CS 5460 ultra soft manual toothbrush is also highly suitable as is the single-tuft CS 1009 single for use with the «solo» technique.

Clean like the specialists
Special dental floss and implant-cleaning floss make very precise cleaning possible. Chlorhexidine mouthwashes, gels and aerosols also help - they can be accurately applied where necessary and are short-acting. Ask your dentist or oral surgeon.

And furthermore
Have a regular check-up and professional cleaning done at least once a year – preferably twice. Get your cleaning technique checked at the same time.

Benefits
With these precautions and regular careful cleaning, you can help to ensure that your implant is well protected and will last for a long time.
Implant types

**Single implant**
Particular care is needed in cleaning the implant itself, as well as places where it contacts the gums and neighbouring teeth.

**Implant-supported bridge**
With an implant-supported bridge, the bridge as well as the implants needs to be thoroughly cleaned.

**Hybrid prosthesis**
This dental prosthesis is attached to implants and can be detached. All components need to be thoroughly cleaned.

**Immediately after placement**
The gums are very sensitive after dental surgery. CURAPROX has the right tools to help keep your teeth and implant clean and healthy, and assist your gums to recover.

Ask your dentist or oral surgeon which products you should use to look after your implants.
The tools

**Sonic toothbrush**

**Hydrosonic CHS 100**

People who have implants will be particularly pleased with our Hydrosonic: brushing the critical areas has never been so simple, fast and thorough. In fact, a Hydrosonic works so exceptionally gently that even people with sensitive gums can breathe a sigh of relief. CPS prime interdental brushes and Enzycal toothpaste are included. The start of a new era in oral health – successful with the Hydrosonic.

With up to 42,000 oscillations.

**Use**

Daily, morning and evening.

The CUREN® filaments of a Hydrosonic ensure enhanced hydrodynamic, in-depth cleaning - in hidden crevices, between the teeth and along the critical gum line in particular.
Toothbrush
CS 5460 ultra soft

Gums love the CS 5460 ultra soft, which is incredibly gentle and efficient thanks to its 5,460 CUREN® filaments. Implants and gum lines are cleaned gently and effectively. A brushing experience. 5,460 filaments, 0.1 mm in diameter.

Gentle and effective.
Elegant.
Since 1979.

Use
Daily, morning and evening.
**Single-tuft brush**

**CS 1009/ 1006 single**

Brushes with a single tuft are particularly well suited to gum line care around implants as well as for connecting bars, telescopic copings and bridges. Tuft length 9 mm. CUREN® filaments, 0.15 mm in diameter. Alternative: a CS 1006 has a slightly shorter 6 mm tuft.

**Use**

Daily, morning and evening.

With care and precision.

A CS Single is easy to bend into a double angle. Simply hold it under hot water and then bend it. A double angle makes awkward areas easy to reach.
Toothbrush
CS surgical mega soft

With its ultrasoft CUREN® filaments, a CS surgical mega soft toothbrush is ideal for use after operations: gums can regenerate, teeth stay clean. Developed in cooperation with the University of Berne. 12,000 filaments, 0.06 mm in diameter.

Use
For around one week following implant placement.
Denture brush
BDC 152 brush

A BDC 152 denture brush is recommended for cleaning removable parts. This patented denture brush removes bacterial coatings and soiling. All denture parts can be cleaned perfectly with the two sets of bristles.

Use
Suitable for daily and weekly cleaning sessions.
Don’t forget our products for organic denture cleaning.

With really clean dentures.
Interdental brushes
CPS soft & implant

These interdental brushes have a unique bristle diameter to make cleaning ultra-safe and effective following interventions. Soft, rounded bristles and plastic-coated CURAL® wire. Your dentist will tell you what sizes you need. CPS soft & implant brushes are also recommended for the areas beneath the connecting bars.

CPS 505
>2.0 mm* / 5.5 mm**

CPS 507
>2.0 mm* / 7.5 mm**

CPS 508
>2.0 mm* / 4.5-8.5 mm**

CPS 512
>2.0 mm* / 12.0 mm**

CPS 516
>2.0 mm* / 16.0 mm**

* Mobility / ** Effectivity

Application
Daily, preferably in the evening before brushing: In. Out. Done.
Interdental brushes
CPS prime

The finest little brushes on the market clean the gum line particularly easily and effectively. Their umbrella effect allows the ultrafine bristles to expand to fill the gaps between the teeth with excellent tension and reach all the critical areas, cleaning effectively and gently. The quality of CPS prime makes a single cleaning movement sufficient: once in and out. Done.

CPS 06
0.6 mm* / 2.2 mm**

CPS 07
0.7 mm* / 2.5 mm**

CPS 08
0.8 mm* / 3.2 mm**

CPS 09
0.9 mm* / 4.0 mm**

CPS 011
1.1 mm* / 5.0 mm**

* Mobility / ** Effectivity
Textured floss
DF 845 implant & braces

This thick, textured floss with threaders at both ends was specially developed to clean around implants and with orthodontic devices. Practical: threaders are unaffected by saliva, but remain stable and do not swell up. 25 cm. 50 textured floss lengths. Threaders at both ends.

Dental floss
DF 834 dental floss waxed

This mint-flavoured dental floss slides perfectly through the contact point between the teeth. Its wax coating makes it easier to handle.

Use
Daily, preferably in the evening before brushing your teeth.
Elastic microfibre floss
DF 846 implant-saver

The Implant-Saver cleans in a new, gentle and effective way. Threaded around the implant along the gum line, this elastic microfibre floss can be easily tensioned and released again. This cleans the sulcus is cleaned and implants last longer.


Thread it over the implant and hold the two ends with both hands. Now alternately slightly tension and release the Implant-Saver. These movements will clean the sulcus around your implant gently and effectively.
Chlorhexidine rinses and toothpastes

CURASEPT ADS® chlorhexidine preparations are particularly strong allies in the battle against bacteria: both for targeted local application around the implant in the form of gels or sprays and as an oral rinse in various concentrations. Ask your dental professional for the best form of application for you. CURASEPT ADS® causes neither discoloration nor changes in taste despite its full chlorhexidine effect.

Use
As instructed by your dentist after implant placement or with gum inflammation.


Often forgotten: Implants need special care. Bacteria find it easier to cling to the sulcus.

Further details on our products and films about their use can be found at www.curaprox.com