

## Dental Implants – Contraindications and Cautions

There are several contraindications to dental implant placement.

1. **Nicotine, Smokers take note:** There is a heightened risk of dental implant failure among smokers, and tobacco users—data indicate half or 50% of all implant *failures* are related to smoking/tobacco use! So, if we have a 96% success rate and 4% fail, then half, or 2% of the total, can be linked to smoking/tobacco use. While the data is still out, vaping may have similar consequences to implants as smoking. The nicotine delivery systems now in common use deliver nicotine in an even more concentrated method than normal smoking. In addition, the average cigarette has a certain amount of smoke “loss” due to passive burning that is not inhaled, so the “equivalent” amount of nicotine in a cigarette and a “vap delivery” is actually more in the vap delivery, as it is “on demand” and does not have passive loss. Cigars obviously have a greater and more sustained impact compared to a cigarette. Pipes also vary on impact. But all said, each is bad for your overall health, and very bad for dental implants.
2. **Radiation treatment** for cancer in the area of the implant location. The decrease in circulation and blood flow in areas that have had radiation treatment may compromise the ability to have implants placed and successfully integrate. Integration of the implant is highly dependent on rebuilding bone and concomitant development of new vascular (blood) pathways to nourish and sustain that bone.
3. **Diabetes** that is not well controlled has a direct effect on healing and therefore, implant healing and success. If the diabetes is well controlled and the patient is in otherwise in good general health, implants can be placed, with the note of caution.
4. **Steroids** - Extended use of steroids may affect healing. The general health and healing of the patient must be taken into consideration.
5. Recently **Vitamin D deficiency** has been linked to implant failure. Evaluation of Vitamin D levels is indicated and supplements should be taken to assure proper levels during healing and probably into the future for maintenance.
6. **Bruxism, grinding and clenching** can damage healing or integrated implants. Control with a nightguard can help this problem by equalizing the forces and help preserve the implants and restorations.
7. **Bisphosphonate medication:** This family of drugs shuts down osteoclasts, which play a pivotal role in bone turnover, growth, and modification. Prior use of bisphosphonates, especially when injected, can create a problem in bone called osteonecrosis. This is a significant problem and very careful evaluation and appropriate cautions should be made for any patient having been on bisphosphonate drugs for any extended period of time.

We will discuss with you the requirements and options for your particular situation. A good review of your medical and dental health, as well as medication, past and present

will be made to help evaluate and potential problems for implants.

#### Implant Questions and Answers

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**If you have any questions about implants, please feel free to ask us.**